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HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE PROGRESS OF MEDICINE IN THE YEAR 1809. BY MR. ROYSTON.

No. 4.

(To be continued Annually.)

" *Rien n'est Beau, que le Vrai.*"——VOLTAIRE.

" *The pleasures of sudden wonders are soon exhausted, and the mind can only repose on the stability of truth.*"——JOHNSON.

THOUGH often enchanted by the corruscations that flash from the fire of imagination, or subdued by the logical subtleties of scholastic disquisition, we have especially to lament that the exercise of the mental principle has so seldom been governed by an adherence to truth. The progress of science has too commonly been marked by a delusive colouring given to facts; by the ingenuity of hypothesis retarding discovery, and by the influence of theory repressing the advances to knowledge. The art of medicine, possibly, more than any other, has suffered by a disposition to turn opinions into principles; and with principles thus manufactured, to erect labored fabrics, and dignify the elaborate visions with the denomination of system. The late ingenious and lamented Dr. Currie of Liverpool, who was himself an instance how far an acquaintance with Nature might be carried by cautious induction, observed, that " the great obstruction which men have in all ages experienced in the pursuit of knowledge, has arisen from the promptitude in the human mind to decide in regard to causes. To the weak and the ignorant, presumption is as natural as doubt is intolerable, and with such, belief is almost always a creation of the imagination. Nor do these observations apply to weakness and ignorance only: to retain the mind unprejudiced and undecided, in the investi-

gation of striking and interesting phænomena, till, by the painful steps of induction, their hidden cause is revealed, is an effort of the most difficult kind, and requires the rarest and highest powers of the understanding. The records of every part of science bear ample testimony to this truth, particularly the records of medicine. The most eminent physicians in every period of the world, impatient of observing and delineating, have been eager to explain, and even to systematize; and the science of life owes its corruptions more to the misapplication of learning, than even to the dreams of superstition."

The fall of the systems of Galen and Boerhaave was not effected by the mutability of fashions:—their component principles wanted the foundation of truth. Hypothesis, however ingenious, is not formed to last: ascertained facts alone are durable. The present age is, perhaps, more perfectly sensible of this, than any preceding. If the period for systematizing has not entirely passed away, there is a greater desire to collect facts, than has been manifested at any former time: and it frequently occurs, that the plain narrative obtains an attention that once was given only to the subtle theorist, and the fabricator of plausible hypotheses. While it is, however, matter of gratulation, that Brown and Darwin have no successors in the science of system-building; we cannot look with indifference, nor without apprehension, on the spirit that impels to the multiplication of books. The art, perhaps, peculiar to modern times, of manufacturing literary wares, is extending with incredible rapidity into every branch of human knowledge. Books are easily formed out of books; and the scissars is the magical instrument that promulgates science and philosophy. When the plagiarism is not thus direct, and the pen has actually been employed, a flippant flourish of style, splendor of paper, neatness of type, and elegance of decoration, render superfluous the labors of investigation and the toil of research. Medical literature has not escaped from this delusion of the age. When we look on the fearful multitude of medical quartos, octavos, and duodecimos, that have issued from the British press in the present year, can it be doubted to what extent this modern art has been exercised? Even the labor of describing this multitude, becomes a subject of alarming contemplation. Upwards of seventy new works, and thirty new editions, on the subject of medicine, have in this period been published in London. Of this number, how many have enlightened the science of medicine, how many have added

improvement

improvement to the practice, or have more clearly explained what was yet imperfectly known; the writer, whose aim is not taken from the masked battery of anonymous criticism, would be imprudently bold to declare. Without daring to alarm this medical hive of the *genus irritabile*, by individual applications, it may be truly asserted, that improvement in the science of medicine has not kept pace with the extension of its literature.

In traversing the circle of medical science, various branches of the art will appear to have different degrees of value. A judicious employment of the practical part, or that, the direct object of which is the cure of disease, it must be admitted, is of the most importance. But the power of properly employing this part, cannot be acquired but by a patient attention to preliminary and auxiliary studies. Of these we have been accustomed to consider Anatomy and Physiology as of primary efficacy. No cause has arisen that should induce a change in this opinion; but it is to be regretted, that the present year affords so few materials. *Gall* and *Spurzheim Recherches sur le systéme nervaux en general, et sur celui du cerveau en particuliere.*—*Watts's* anatomico-chirurgical views of the nose, larynx and fauces; with *Pettigrew's* views of the basis of the brain and cranium, are the principal separate anatomical productions of 1809. What has been produced on the continent, beside the work of Gall and Spurzheim, the precarious and scanty intelligence, which by stealth only arrives, does not enable us to state.

Few of our readers but will recollect the popular reputation of Dr. Gall, and the controversies that have existed upon his novel and visionary system respecting the external appearances of the cranium, as indicatory of the propensities, powers, and capacities of human intellect. The wild enthusiasm that appeared to direct the opinions of this philosophizing anatomist, convinced us that his hypothesis was framed of fragile materials, and that a scanty period would terminate its progress. This opinion was not founded, however, on any direct publication of Gall, on the subject of what he quaintly called *Craniology*; but rather on the statements of his pupils and partizans: for, in this case, as often before has occurred, the policy of the leader of the sect, taught him either to disdain, or to fear committing himself, otherwise than in his public lectures.

But subsequent to this, Dr. Gall has submitted his asserted discoveries on the anatomy of the brain, to the physical class of the French National Institute, in a memoir,

moir, entitled "Inquiries into the Nervous System in general, and the Brain in particular." This body appointed a committee, consisting of M. M. Tenon, Portal, Sabatier, Pinel, and Cuvier, to examine this Memoir. The report of these commissioners bears the date of April 1808, and is as clear and perspicuous an explication of the doctrines of Gall and Spurzheim, as the obscure and intricate nature of the subject of this Memoir admitted. It is evident from this report, that the investigations of these anatomists were always ingenious, sometimes highly satisfactory; and that Messrs. Tenon, &c. frequently agreed with them, though they were sometimes compelled to dissent. From a production, in itself highly ingenious, and employed on a subject of such decided interest as the development of the structure of a part of the human frame, from whence is believed to spring the susceptibility to impression in the organs of sense, and the distribution of feeling over the whole system, and which has also a direct connexion with the mental operations, it would be extremely satisfactory to quote largely, did the space allotted to this Sketch admit. We must be content, however, to refer to the Report itself, or to a translation of it in the Edinburgh Medical Journal, January 1809. It appears that Messrs. Gall and Spurzheim were not satisfied with this Report of the Commissioners, who they will scarcely allow, notwithstanding their frequent intercourse and repeatedly dissecting the brain with them, to have understood the subject. This opinion is fully expressed in their observations *sur la Rapport, &c.* These *Recherches* will probably raise the character of *Gall* in this country; and he may no longer be known only as a philosophical charlatan, but rather as an anatomist who patiently inquires into the structure of the nervous system; and often as a physiologist of happy conjecture on the functions and operation of the brain.

From these abstruse and bewildering speculations, which leave the jaded intellect uncertain of what is, or is not, to be believed; it is satisfactory to turn to productions where something like common sense and demonstrable fact appear. Of this kind is the work jointly produced by Mr. Watt and Mr. Lawrence. To correct views of Nature in this, are joined descriptions of the parts delineated, so perspicuous that they leave but little farther to be wished on the subject. The anatomico-chirurgical views of the nose, mouth, larynx, and fauces, present explanations of parts not readily comprehended by the student from actual dissection; but who will, with the assistance of these plates,

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soon overcome this difficulty. The "Views of the basis of the brain and cranium, with a dissertation on the origin of the nerves," by Mr. Pettigrew, is to be considered as the work of a young man, ardent in the pursuit of professional knowledge. We are concerned that in this eagerness to signalize himself he has become obnoxious to the castigation of a harsh critic, who accuses him (Ann. Med. Rev. & Register, v. ii. p. 320.) of unpardonable faults in composition, and of bungling piracy. Without designing also to become accusers, we cannot but remark, that Mr. Pettigrew claims the discovery of certain rules for ascertaining the situation of the trunks of cutaneous nerves, *which rules have been publickly taught by Mr. Brookes, for many years, both in his Dissecting-room, and at his Lecture.* And not only have these rules been applied by Mr. Brookes to the *par trigeminum;* but he has likewise been in the constant habit of pointing out methods for discovering the exact seat of the trunks of all the cutaneous nerves in the superior and inferior extremities; so that a surgeon, acquainted with what Mr. Brookes has, on this subject, been teaching his pupils for a long time, cannot possibly err, in either dividing these nerves, or exposing them only, as may be intended. We hope Mr. Pettigrew was not aware of these facts, when he says, "*I have endeavoured to lay down an almost invariable rule* (p. 11.) *to accomplish this* (the division of nerves) *to a certainty upon all those ramifications of nerves superficially situated.*"

In addition to the separate anatomical works above mentioned, several ingenious papers have appeared in periodical publications. At the head of these publications may properly be placed the Philosophical Transactions. In the first part of this national work for 1809, Mr. Brodie relates the case of a fœtus, in which the heart was wanting, though it had advanced to considerable fœtal maturity. Its stomach had no cardiac orifice; there was neither colon, omentum, liver, nor gall-bladder; *and the circulation must have been carried on entirely by the arteries.*

Mr. Home details an examination of the vertebræ of the *squalus maximus Linn.* by which he discovered that three pints, at least, of mucous fluid, was found within the intervertebral substance. This apparatus, probably, serves to facilitate the motions of the spine, by affording a fixed centre, round which the vertebræ may move with steady velocity. A similarity of structure was discovered in the spines of other animals. The intervertebral fluid was, however, generally greater in fish than in quadrupeds; the

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rapid motion of the spine in swimming, requiring in them a higher perfection in this apparatus. Mr. Home had an opportunity of further examining the structure of the *squalus maximus*, by one having been accidentally caught on the coast near Hastings, in the night of the 13th of November 1808. In the pursuit of a subject, which seems to have occupied much of his attention, Mr. Home particularly directed his inquiries to the stomach of this fish. In the 2d part of the Phil. Trans. he relates the result of these inquiries. From the examination of this organ, in which was found an immense quantity of pebbles, it is presumed that this species of *squalus* affords the connecting link in the gradation of animal life, between the whale and the cartilaginous fishes. Upon tracing the 6th ventricle of the brain, which corresponds with the 4th in the human subject, to its apparent termination, the *calamus scriptorius*, Mr. Sewell perceived the appearance of a canal, continuing by a direct course into the centre of the spinal marrow. By sections of the spinal marrow, he relates in a letter to the Roy. Soc. it was ascertained that this canal terminated insensibly in the *cauda equina*. As all reasonings on natural subjects should be founded on absolute fact, and all conclusions formed from fair analogies, resulting from such facts, though we may not be prepared now to say what is the design of placing such a canal in the centre of the spinal marrow, we have a satisfaction in recording an appearance that may hereafter explain some law in the yet hidden operations of the brain and nerves.

The first volume of the Transactions of the Medical and Chirurgical Society of London, contains three papers on anatomical subjects. The first of these is a description of two muscles surrounding the membranous part of the urethra, by Mr. Wilson, of Windmill-street. These muscles have the power of diminishing the capacity of the urethral canal. Some practical circumstances respecting the state of the urethra, are explained from the action of these muscles, which have the power, not only of diminishing, but closing up that part of the canal where the membranous portion of the urethra joins the penis. On this Mr. Wilson remarks, that "knowing such muscles exist, we shall not hastily infer, that a permanent stricture of the urethra is formed, because we cannot introduce a bougie or catheter; we shall therefore avoid using those remedies, which, though adapted to the cure of a stricture attended with a morbid alteration of the urinary passage, would, in a case arising from contraction only of these muscles,

muscles, prove injurious to the patient. *In cases of retention of urine, where no instrument will enter the bladder, we shall be induced to persevere in the means best adapted to overcome a temporary, but forcible contraction of the muscles. When this has been done, our second attempt to draw off the urine will probably succeed.*" This circumstance, perhaps, explains an occurrence that has been as flattering to one operator as humiliating to another. A surgeon of notorious dexterity has been foiled in his attempt to pass a catheter into the bladder. After long persevering he gives up the point; when another, whose skill he has held in great contempt, passes the instrument immediately, and with apparent ease. This happens from the first attempts having fatigued the muscles, which Mr. Wilson describes, nearly to the exhaustion of their contractile power. In the interval between the exhaustion of the muscular power of the uterus by one labor pain, and its recovery to produce another, the hand is easily passed into its cavity. It is a known fact that, in dislocations of the humerus, long continued efforts exhaust the muscles which resist the return of the bone to its place, and render its reduction easy. The being liable to exhaustion of power by continued effort seems a general law of the muscular fibre, and may frequently be applied to practical purposes. Mr. Wilson's paper is accompanied by a drawing, which gives a distinct view of these muscles, with the relative situation of the neighbouring parts.

Connected with anatomy are two more papers in this volume. One of these, is the case of a boy who had a fœtus found in his abdomen. Mr. Young, the relator of this curious fact, states, that the boy, who is the subject of it, was born in May 1807, and died in February 1808. In his short life he suffered much from disease, the origin of which seemed to be among the abdominal viscera. On opening the body, a substance was found in a cyst within the abdomen, having unequivocally the shape and character of a human fœtus. A minute account is given of the state of the abdominal viscera in general, accompanied with plates, which render the history very intelligible. A similar phenomenon occurred at Paris a few years since, and was published in a *bulletin de l'Ecole de Medicine*. The other paper contains an historical account of Philip Haworth, a boy, in whom the signs of puberty commenced at the early age of one year. A minute history is given of this boy by Mr. White, accompanied with notices of similar deviations from the course of nature. The subject of this paper is

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still living, and has now entered his fifth year. When we saw him, some time in 1809, he was extremely robust, and had, with perfect marks of virility, the intellect of a child of three years old.

Physiology, a branch of science certainly more fascinating, though less correctly understood than Anatomy, has, during this year, experienced considerable acquisitions. Dr. Reeve, whom we had an opportunity to notice in the Report for 1808, as the author of an ingenious history of Cretinism, has published an Essay on the Torpidity of Animals. Among the phenomena of animal life, the property, or the habit of having suspended some of its most striking functions; and of remaining, for a great length of time, in a state of apparent sleep, without motion, and without nutriment; seems the most extraordinary. On this curious subject, Dr. Reeve has collected a number of facts of considerable interest, and collated the opinions of many celebrated authors, forming an Essay which will both excite to inquiry and assist the inquirer. As this is, we think, the first separate publication expressly on this peculiar state of animal life, in the English language, it has the merit of leading to disquisitions on a curious physiological fact. The property of having the obvious actions of life suspended for a great length of time, without the absolute destruction or separation of the vital principle, is not confined to animals; it is plainly seen among vegetables, for the reduced temperature of every winter occasions it; and by a certain degree of cold, artificially employed, this hybernation of trees has been much extended. At Moscow, M. Demidow, placed apple and pear trees, that came from France, in an ice cellar, and suspended their vegetation for nineteen months: yet these trees, when afterwards subjected to the stimulus of heat, produced flowers and fruit. In some animals, especially of the class *Vermes* and order *Testacea* of Linneus, torpidity was continued a great length of time without destroying life. This has been remarked particularly to happen to the *Helix hortensis*, which has continued in this state for many years, without parting with the vital principle. The leading facts relative to hybernation are arranged under the following heads.

1st. On the approach of winter, many animals retire from exposure to the atmosphere into retreats, where they roll themselves up, and yield to a kind of sleep, which usually continues till the return of warm weather.

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In this state it is observed, that their temperature is greatly diminished, though it still continues somewhat above that of the surrounding medium.

2d. The frequency of pulsation in the heart and arteries is greatly diminished.

3d. Respiration becomes less frequent, or ceases entirely.

4th. The stomach and intestines cease to act.

5th. Sensation and voluntary motion are lessened, or cease.

The Phil. Trans. of this year afford some specimens of ingenious physiological speculation. The Croonian Lecture, by Dr. Young, on the Functions of the Heart and Arteries, takes a prominent station among these. The learned author particularly directs his investigation to the following heads.

1st. What would be the nature of the circulation of the blood, if the whole of the veins and arteries were invariable in their dimensions, like tubes of glass or bone?

2d. In what manner would the pulse be transmitted from the heart through the arteries, if they were merely elastic tubes?

3d. What can, with propriety, be attributed to the muscular coats of the arteries themselves?

4th. Observations on the disturbances of these, which may be supposed to occur in different kinds of inflammations, and of fevers.

In pursuing this inquiry, much curious research, ingenious speculation, and profound mathematical reasoning are employed. The calculations and experiments of Keil, Hales, and Haller, are resorted to for the decision of difficult points; but whether the main object of the paper, which is to prove, that the circulation of the blood through the arteries is but little promoted by the muscular power of those vessels, is established, remains, at least, doubtful. It is a singular fact, that in the volume where Dr. Young labours to establish this principle, a case of monstrosity should be given, where the circulation was carried on without the assistance of the heart, that organ being entirely wanting. The superiority of fact over speculation is pointedly put by this fortuitous circumstance. The plain narrative of Mr. Brodie will, probably, carry conviction much further than the elaborate and able reasoning of Dr. Young. The power of working up the phantoms of imagination with plausible dexterity, is sometimes given in ex-

extraor-

traordinary profusion; and speculations on the functions of animal bodies then mislead in a ratio agreeing with their ingenuity. It is not meant to insinuate, however, that this property or power has been exercised in the Phil. Trans. of this year, with any uncommon adroitness, or redundance of dexterity. On the contrary, there seems a disposition in the Royal Society to urge that the foundation of opinions be laid on actual experiment, and on known or ascertainable facts.*

Physiology has been much indebted to modern chemistry, for the illustration of many phenomena in animal life heretofore inexplicable. Especially, have the laws and effects of respiration been unfolded by this science: and a paper on this subject, by Messrs Allen and Pepys, in the Phil. Trans. of this year, will shew the ardour with which, in this view, it is still cultivated.

Under the denomination of Animal Chemistry much has also been done to ascertain the true properties of the materials, whether solid or fluid, of which the animal frame is compounded. Among those who have laboured on this subject with most effect, Dr. Bostock, of Liverpool, must be noticed for his persevering ingenuity. A paper on the gelatine of the blood, in the Transactions of the Medico Chirurgical Society of London, for this year, will manifest the claim this gentleman has to particular attention. Beside the chemical object of this paper, in it will be found a neat epitome of the history of opinions on the nature and properties of the blood. In the Philosophical Transactions, Dr. Pearson's paper on Expectorated Matter; Mr. Brande's Observations on Albumen, and some other animal fluids, with remarks on their analysis by electro-chemical decomposition;--and Mr. Home's Hints on the subject of Animal Secretions, are properly arranged under the class of Animal Chemistry. The first of these is defective in a practical view, as it does not state "*those properties by which expectorated secretion may be distinguished from expectorated pus.*" Every practitioner has felt how desirable it is to have a criterion, by which to distinguish pus from mucous, as regarding discharges from the lungs. If

* Mr Knight has made some curious observations on the comparative influence of male and female parents on their offspring. These are inserted in the Phil. Trans. of this year, and deserve attention as speculations on an abstruse, but interesting subject.

If Dr. Pearson has discovered such a criterion, the spirit for scientific improvement indicated in the general tenor of his pursuits, will prevent his long withholding it from the public.

The practical part of Surgery, has in modern times received so much improvement, as scarcely to resemble what it once was. Every year, indeed, adds something either to its reasoning or operative part; and the present is not wanting of this spirit of improvement. Among the publications on Surgery, in 1809, we notice a second volume of Charles Bell's System of Operative Surgery, and his Letters concerning Diseases of the Urethra.—Wardrop's Observations on *Fungus Hæmatodes.* A Dictionary of Practical Surgery, by Mr. Cooper.—Dr. Serney's Treatise on Local Inflammation.—An Essay on the Nature and Treatment of the Malignant Contagious Ulcer, as it generally appears in the British Navy, by James Little, Surgeon, R. N.—Abernethy's Surgical Observations on the Constitutional Origin and Treatment of Local Diseases; and Aneurism.—And, as the latest production on the Surgery of France, that the designed difficulty of communication with that country has permitted us to examine, *M. Richerand's Nosographie Chirurgiçale.*

The observations on the *Fungus Hæmatodes* will deservedly excite considerable attention; and the labour of Mr. Wardrop must reflect credit on himself, and benefit science, notwithstanding he may have extended the appellation far beyond what a sober view of a specific disease can justify. We apprehend this alarming complaint must have existed in all periods, and even before there were records of science: but it has been the fortune of Mr. Burns, of Glasgow, in the year 1800; first, distinctly to point it out in his *Dissertations on Inflammation.* Mr. Hey, of Leeds, in 1803, (*Practical Observations in Surgery*) accurately detailed some cases of this disease, and applied to it the term *Fungus Hæmatodes.* In 1804, an analagous affection, under the name of *Medullary Sarcoma*, was described (*Surgical Observations, &c.*) by Mr. Abernethy. It has sometimes been called soft Cancer: and Mr. Pott mentions a similar disease in the calf of the leg, which he considered as arising from a rupture of the posterior tibial artery. Since the attention of the profession was first excited to this complaint by Mr. Burns, the cases of it seem to have increased with great rapidity. This is to be accounted for, however, by the appellation given to it by Mr.

Hey,

Hey, being made to comprehend many morbid alterations of structure, which had before gone by other designations. It is most desirable that a disease so destructive should be fully identified: and if it can be considered as a genus comprehending several species, the generic relation of these, as well as their specific differences, should be clearly defined. Opinions on the cause of this malady are greatly at variance. Some have considered it as arising from a morbid change in the structure of the small arteries, similar to that which, in the large ones, disposes to aneurism. Others look upon it as "a living parasitical animal, nourished by the vital fluid of the patient; and capable of absorbing from the adjacent vessels what is effused from its own." The progress of this disease, when it attacks the eye-ball, is described with great accuracy; and constitutes, perhaps, the chief excellence of Mr. Wardrop's Work. "The first appearance of the *Fungus Hæmatodes*, when it attacks the eye, he says, is observable in the posterior chamber. The pupil becomes dilated and immoveable, and, instead of its natural deep black colour, it has a dark amber, and in some cases a greenish hue, giving to the eye very much of that appearance which is observed in the sound eye of the sheep, the cat, or any of the lower animals. As the progress of the disease advances, the colour becomes more remarkable; and it is soon discovered to be produced from a solid substance, which is forming in the bottom of the eye, and gradually approaching towards the cornea. The surface of this substance is generally rugged, and not unlike what may be supposed to arise from a quantity of effused lymph. In some cases, red vessels may be seen running across the opake body; but these are not the vessels which nourish it, but ramifications of the cerebral artery of the retina. When the disease advances further, the form of the eye-ball begins to alter, acquiring an irregular knobbed appearance; at the same time, the sclerotic coat loses its natural pearly white colour, and becomes of a dark blue, or livid hue. The tumour, by its continued growth, finally occupies the whole anterior chamber, and, in some cases, a quantity of purulent matter collects between it and the *cornea*. At last the cornea ulcerates, and a fungous tumour shoots out from the portion of the diseased substance, contiguous to the ulcerated cornea; and in other cases, the tumour pushes itself through the sclerotic coat. The substance of this fungus is very readily torn; and when a portion of it is separated,

parated, or if it be slightly scratched, it bleeds profusely. In other cases, the tumour is of a firmer texture; and if, as sometimes happens, instead of coming through the cornea, it burst through the sclerotic coat, it then pushes before it the conjunctiva, and thus derives a mucous covering. When the tumour becomes very large, portions of the most prominent parts begin to lose their vitality, and separate in sloughs, which have a very offensive and fœtid smell, and are accompanied with the discharge of an acrid serum." The opinions of Mr. Abernethy will always have, as they will always deserve, a considerable share of public attention. It would, however, occasion much regret, if these opinions were becoming hypothetical, and were carried to the extreme of deriving almost every chronic disease from the same source. The "Observations on the Constitutional Origin and Treatment of Local Diseases," is in part a reprint of a former work, with some alterations and additions; particularly a paper on Aneurism, with which the volume concludes. The object of this publication is, to lay before the profession the facts which have come under the author's observation, relative to the disorders of the digestive organs, and their connection with and effects on other parts of the frame.

For some years, a species of ulcer called the *ship, or contagious malignant ulcer,* had afflicted the British Navy to an extent that *was* extremely alarming. Mr. Little, in the pamphlet mentioned in the preceding enumeration, has given the pathology and treatment of this ulcer. But, that the cases of this disease are so decreased in number, as to be, comparatively, an object of slight professional consideration, will appear from the following statement of admissions of patients with it for a series of years, into the Royal Hospital at Plymouth. From May to the 31st of December, 1803, were received 87 cases.—In 1804, received 621.—In 1805, 377.—In 1806, 505.—In 1807, 346.—In 1808, 223.—In 1809, 220.—And to the 30th of April, 1810, 58. In 1804, 19 died in the hospital of this ulcer. In 1806, 23 died. In 1808, 5 died. In 1809, none died. In 1810, to the 30th of April, none. The rise, progress, and decline of this disease, presents a curious fact in the history of the Medical Art, and deserves a minute and unprejudiced investigation. Perhaps the following authentic notices may be of use to its future historian.

Some idea may be formed of the ravages occasioned by

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this malady, when it is stated that in 1804, six hundred and twenty one patients labouring under it, were admitted into a single hospital at Plymouth. In 1805, Sir Edward Pellew, commander in chief in India, stated to the Admiralty that, so destructive was the ship-ulcer in his squadron, and so intractable under every kind of medical and chirurgical treatment, that an apprehension was entertained of some of his ships being depopulated. In 1804 and 1805 it had made destructive inroads upon the health of the fleets off Brest and Ferrol; but the greatest fatality occurred in 1806 on board the *Salvador del Mundo*, then a receiving ship at the port of Plymouth. When in 1804 and 1805, Dr. ANDREW BAIRD, Inspector of naval hospitals, to whom the nation is indebted for rescuing her seamen from an enemy, against which no prudence could protect, no courage prevail, visited the fleet off Brest and the squadron at Ferrol, he found in many ships the progress of this disease truly awful. The representation of Sir Edward Pellew, on the state of his squadron, induced the Lords of the Admiralty to call upon Dr. *Baird*, in January 1806, to draw up a succinct account of his opinion on the cause and cure of this malady. The indefatigable attention to the avocations of his profession, the extent of his practical knowledge, and, above all, his disposition to feel no influence but that of duty, fully justified the choice of the Admiralty. There were two sources, Dr. Baird believed, in which the ship-ulcer originated: want of cleanliness in the ship, and negligent or improper management on the part of the surgeon. It is obvious that these causes may act separately; but the probability is, that when the Captain becomes careless of the state of the vessel, the Surgeon will be inattentive or slovenly in the discharge of his professional duty. In dirty ships, (a comprehensive term, including the actual impurities that may be suffered to accumulate in every part, the want of ventilation, and inattention of the crew to personal cleanliness) this disease was found most to prevail. Neglect on the part of the Surgeon is specifically stated to be inattention to slight hurts; not enjoining rest to patients before extensive inflammation, the precursor of gangrene, took place; and using the same sponge and water indiscriminately to all cases of ulcer. Under these circumstances it was, that blistered parts, punctured veins, recent wounds, and abraded surfaces, degenerated into malignant ulcer. The endeavour to rescue the navy from this calamity, was necessarily

cessarily divided into two branches: the *prophylaxis and therapeutica.* The first was intimately connected with the discipline of the ship, and not only became a means of prevention, but an able auxiliary in the cure. The detail of this comprehended a general attention to cleanliness; an enlargement of the sick, and an erection of a convalescent berth for the reception of all recent wounds and clean sores; and into which, all cases that had gone thro' sphacelation, and had assumed a healthy appearance (the patient's person and cloathing being previously purified) were removed. No sponge, or any kind of dressing used in the foul ulcer ward, was suffered to approach the convalescent berth. Of the particular nature and quality of this ulcer, Dr. Baird expressed himself with a force and precision, that could only arise from extensive observation, and a conviction that his opinions were founded on truth. He contemplated it as a disease of increased action, and requiring a treatment in its early stage similar to other inflammatory affections; and calculated to render less destructive its subsequent progress. The medical practitioner who is employed in those departments of civil life least liable to be influenced by impure air and sordid living, frequently encounters peculiar idiosyncracies, in popular but expressive language, called *bad habits of body,* where the smallest wound, or abrasion of surface, is followed by active inflammation, ulceration, and sometimes gangrene. In these cases, without being influenced by the prospect of future sphacelus to employ stimulants and tonics, the judicious practitioner looks only to the controul of the increased action, knowing that the ease or difficulty of the subsequent management will be proportioned to the extent of the inflammation. It seems that this peculiar idiosyncracy, or bad habit of body, prevails very extensively among seamen, inducing upon all external injury, an active inflammation, to be restrained only by the most powerful remedies.

Upon this principle was founded the successful practice of Dr. Baird. In the first, or inflammatory stage, early rest was enjoined; the inflamed part was covered with compresses kept constantly wet with the vegeto-mineral water: the use of animal food and wine was strictly interdicted. Brisk purgatives were exhibited every second day, and saline draughts taken in the intervening one, with the addition of opium every five or six hours to allay irritability, and to procure sleep an anodyne always at night. As soon as the inflammation

flammation was arrested, simple dressings were applied; and if the disease ran into sphacelus, an employment of the fermenting cataplasm assisted in producing an early separation of destroyed parts. When the sphacelated parts were separated, the same simple dressing was again used, or adhesive straps if the bone was sound. By a moderate use of animal food, wine and bark, the strength was gradually restored. The propriety of this mode of treatment is established on its uniform success: "for ulcers are now, where these doctrines are acted upon; almost extinguished from the service." The once rapid spread of this ulcer through the fleets, and into the naval hospitals, seems principally to have been induced by a false theory. When a contagious or malignant property was only looked to, stimulant and tonic remedies were exclusively employed internally, and irritating antiseptics applied to the ulceration. The inflammatory stage of the disease, and upon the conducting of which hung the final success, was either entirely overlooked, or its management so influenced by the idea of *malignity*, as to increase rather than abate its activity. Uninfluenced by hypothesis, Dr. *Baird* saw, that unless the inflammatory action could be kept within certain bounds, every remedial effort would be foiled: and it is to his good sense and practical skill that the country is indebted for the lessening, if not extinction, of this disease.

The work of M. Richerande, in 4 vols. having been published at Paris, 1808,* hardly comes into the plan of this *Sketch*: as it is, however, entirely practical, and professes, without any view to the historical progress of the art, to describe the scientific and operative part of modern Surgery, it becomes highly interesting to the English practitioner. The detail it gives of the state of surgery in France, affords the fair means of estimating whether in England or in that country, the science has made the greatest progress. But English surgeons will not subscribe to the decision of M. Richerande, when, on giving a comparative view of the art in different countries, he says,

"L'Eclat dont brillait la chirurgie Française devint pour le reste de l'Europe un utile sujet d'emulation. En ces tems vécurent en Angleterre Cheselden, Douglas, les deux Monro,

* Second edit. enlarged and improved.

Monro, Sharp, Cowper, Alanson, Pott, Hawkins, Smellie, et les deux Hunter; en Italie, Molinelli, Bertrandi, Moscati; en Hollande, Albinus, Deventer, Camper; en Allemagne, et dans le norde de l'Europe, Heister, Platner, Rœderer, Stein, Bilguer, Acrell, Callisen, Brambilla, Thedan, et Richter. Tous ces hommes célèbres s'accoutumènent à regarder l'Académie de Chirurgie comme le centre commun des lumières dont toutes les parties de l'art se trouvaient éclairées; la supériorité de la chirurgie Française fut généralement reconnue, et noblement avouée par la plupart d'entr'eux. Cet hommage ne lui fut pas rendu peut-être d'une manière unanime chez une nation rivale, qui, fière de ses Bacon, de ses Loke, et de ses Newton, aspire vainement a une supériorité trop universelle. Si les suffrages de l'Europe n'avoient pas fait justice de ces prétentions, et si d'ailleurs l'espace ne manquait à notre zèle, nous nous plairions, dans un parallèle des chirurgies Française et Anglaise, a comparer, et même à opposer Wiseman à Paré, Cheselden à J. L. Petit, Jean Hunter à Desault: dans cette espèce de lutte établie entre les chirurgiens des deux peuples, il n'est pas difficile de prévoir de quel côté resterait l'avantage."

The truth is, that each country has excelled the other in some particular points; and we sincerely regret that the evils of war prevent a participation of their peculiar improvements. If *M. Richerand* had been better acquainted with the state of English surgery, his work, as a view of the present state of the art, would have been more perfect; and his opinion of French surgeons might, perhaps, have come to a modester standard. On the operations for aneurism in particular, the French might receive much instruction. For, notwithstanding *M. Richerand's* opinion to the contrary, tying the external iliac, the carotid and subclavian arteries, may be effected without any extraordinary difficulty, and with great prospect of success. The year 1809 has produced cases of this kind. Mr. Abernethy, in his remarks on aneurism, attached to the "Observations, &c." relates three cases of tying the external iliac, two of which were completely successful; and Mr. Astley Cooper, in the Medico-Chirurgical Transactions, gives the histories of two cases of tying the carotid artery. A correct knowledge of the anatomy is too obvious to be mentioned as an indispensable qualification in the operator; but it seems of great importance to urge an early employment of the operation, and before the aneurismal tumour has injured, in any great

 degree

degree, the surrounding parts; or become, from its extent and diseased state, the source of morbid irritations, which may themselves destroy the patient. While these bold operations receive their sanction from success, we feel it a duty to state, that the experience of this year seems to have fully determined, that one much more simple cannot be performed without putting life into extreme hazard. In certain varicose states of the *vena saphena*, it has been proposed to tie that vessel in a way that has some analogy to the operation for aneurism. This has several times been done, and the result has commonly been severe inflammation, which, in several instances, has ended in death.

The frequency of herniæ, the alarming symptoms that occasionally arise from them, as well as the hitherto unavailing efforts of art to discover any means of radical cure, must be an apology for noticing the following statement in a work entitled, "*Cochlioperie; Recuiel d'Experiences tres-curieuses, sur les Helices terrestres, ou Escarjot, &c. 8vo. Paris*, 1808." M. Tarenne asserts that he has discovered a radical cure for hernia. Having observed, he says, that the slimy juice of the snail had been long used with success in disorders of the breast, and noticing its astringency, and the singular reproductive quality which the animal itself possesses; he was led to conjecture that this juice, when applied upon the skin, would readily penetrate, and spread itself to the diseased parts beneath. Upon this principle he applied this agglutinating fluid to hernial apertures; and he further asserts, that he succeeded in radically curing the disease. Though there is no rational expectation that a cure can be thus effected, yet the positive manner in which M. Tarenne relates his cases, will induce some, possibly, to give his method a trial. To enable those who may be thus disposed, M. Tarenne's process is here inserted from a reputable periodical work. The common spring truss, when employed in this process, has its convex cushion made concave, for the purpose of receiving a china or glass cup, which cup is to have a diameter equal to the hernial aperture. This cup, intended to be kept upon the opening through which the intestine escapes, by the pressure of the elastic truss, is filled with wool imbued with the liquor flowing from the snail. Being provided with this apparatus, the patient is directed to proceed in the following manner: three or four hundred snails are to be procured in the spring, and kept in a place where they may have nutriment, as only from two to eight are to be used daily. The patient every day before he rises, and after he is in bed,

bed, takes away the cup from the truss, and with a pin wounds the snail, at intervals, in different places. From each wound is given out through the opening in the shell, sometimes a blueish, sometimes a grey-coloured water, which must be caught on the wool in the cup.* This being sufficiently filled with the liquor is to be placed on the part affected, always very exactly in the same situation; it is then to be covered with a white linen cloth, and the cushion of the truss applied over it. This treatment is to be pursued three or four months, changing the wool occasionally, and attending to other accidents, as inflammation or excoriation in the part where the cup is applied. By this method, says M. Tarenne, a common hernia may be cured in three or at least four months." It is evident that M. Tarenne assumes it to be a fact, that the fluid exuding from the wound made in the snail has an agglutinating property, or the faculty of producing something that will close the hernial aperture. We fear that this will not be found to be the fact, and that we shall have to regret, after many thousand of these little animals have been destroyed, that M. Tarenne's project will, for want of success, be forgotten. It has been the misfortune of the genus Helix to have affixed to it a vulgar opinion, of affording, in several of its species at least, a specific for some obdurate diseases. Even yet the *Helix pomatia*, found in Surry, particularly about Guildford, Dorking, Boxhill, &c. is sacrificed in incredible numbers, to make what the country people call *snail water*, a compound, possessed, in popular opinion, of extraordinary powers.

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* If it could be admitted that any kind of snail afforded a principle, or material, that had the property of reproducing destroyed animal substance, it would be highly desirable to ascertain that species: then would the vague description of M. Tarenne be regretted. Of the thirty-eight species of British Helices, we believe the *Helix hortensis* has been that most employed for medical purposes. Some disease of the chest, resembling *phthisis pulmonalis*, having got well during its use, has given it temporary fame; but its application to the true phthisis always destroyed that fame. Thus has it, from time to time, risen and fallen in public estimation. It is not, perhaps, so generally known that the garden-snail has been employed in ascites. In this disease, the bruised animal, in large quantity, made into cataplasm with barley flour, and a species of lichen not correctly described, is applied over the navel. In one instance, tolerably authenticated, and where the patient had filled after paracentesis, the application of this cataplasm was followed by complete recovery. The *Helix pomatia* is the most remarkable of the British species. This is principally, if not exclusively, found on the Surry Hills, where, in the month of May, the animal with its large

The theoretical and practical parts of medicine have received in the year 1809, considerable and interesting accessions. The attention that has been given to a train of diseases which have been considered as the opprobrium of the English climate, from the importance of their object, will claim the serious deliberation of the Faculty. There is some impregnation of the atmosphere of the British islands, or some impression from its vicissitudes, that render pulmonic complaints of more frequent recurrence among their inhabitants, than in other parts of the globe. These complaints assume a variety of forms, from the common catarrhal cough of the spring months, where the secreting membrane of the bronchiæ recovers from, or goes through the stages of the disease in ten or fourteen days, to chronic winter cough, serious pneumonic inflammation or bronchitis, and the destructive phthisis pulmonalis. All these depend, it is believed, on some state of the air; or, perhaps, on habits of life acting in conjunction with atmospherical vicisitudes except the phthisis, which possibly has its cause in some strumous state of the lungs, rather than in the atmosphere; though the accidents of that fluid will undoubtedly accelerate its progress, or bring into action the latent taint. Experience has often borne out the Brunonian doctrine of the cause of simple catarrh. The *Elementa Medicinæ*, agreeably to its leading principle, asserted that these affections of the bronchial membrane were occasioned by the sudden application of heat after exposure to cold. In the language of the system, this was explained to be an application of an exciting power, in a disproportionate degree to a part where the excitability, property, or susceptibility to be acted upon, was accumulated, from the absence or reduced standard of the exciting power. The consequence

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large cream coloured shell, moving among the herbage, never fails to excite attention. The appearance of this snail in England is fixed to a precise period. Sir Kenelm Digby is asserted to have brought the first colony hither, with a view of employing the animal in medicine: and there is a tradition still existing at Dorking, that a person who had resided long in Spain, brought a colony to Box-Hill, for the purpose of employing them for soup, to the use of which he had been accustomed in that country. Several attempts have been made to rear the *Helix p.* in other parts of England, without effect; some have been brought to the gardens in the vicinity of the metropolis, but have soon died; indeed, it has been found impracticable to preserve them, even in the gardens of the town of Dorking; for they either escape from their new residence, or soon die in it. This snail was a favourite article of diet among the Romans, and Pliny speaks of its being enormously increased in size by feeding.

consequence of this would be, in the part where the excitability had accumulated from want of regular exhaustion, an increase of vascular action, proceeding to that form of disease called inflammation. In this view of the cause of pulmonic complaints, it is evident that the hazard of taking cold, as it is popularly called, must be in proportion to the duration and degree of exposure to a low temperature, and to the degree and suddenness of the application of heat after this exposure. When heat is applied, under these circumstances, to the secreting surface of the bronchial membrane in a certain degree, common catarrh is produced: in another degree, severe, and often fatal, *bronchitis*. When the parenchyma of the lungs, or their investing membrane, feel the impression, pneumonia or pleuritis ensues. This doctrine receives elucidation and support, by recurring to the known effects produced on animal bodies by the disproportionate action of cold and heat. These effects are, on the surface of the body, pain, inflammation, and gangrene. Very slight attention to the subject will ascertain that the symptoms of a cold or catarrh, first appear in the evening when shut up in a warm room near to a fire, and while taking warm or hot fluids. And so distinctly may this sometimes be marked, as to shew that the affection appears first on that side of the face nearest to the fire. Whatever may eventually be the fate of the Brunonian theory, there exist a sufficient number of facts to prove the danger that results from the application of artificial heat, both in health and in disease. Possibly, the asserted increase of pulmonary complaints may arise from the great exposure to cold, the effect of modern cloathing opposed to close, carpeted, and heated rooms. These observations apply principally to the prophylaxis; when disease has appeared, the object and the means will be different. The treatment of consumption, the most destructive of this morbid train, has been studied with an exactness that promised a successful result. But every method failing, the last resource is sought in a mild and unvarying temperature of air, at Lisbon, Montpellier, Nice, or Madeira. It has been thought that this steady temperature might be artificially produced in this country; and Dr. Buxton, in an "Essay on the Use of a Regulated Temperature in Winter Cough and Consumption," has pointed out its efficacy, and suggested a mode of execution. Something of this kind had been proposed a few years since by Dr. Adams, (Med. and Phys. Journ. v. 311.) and Dr. George Pearson, (Phil. Mag.) has lately projected a similar

similar resource for those consumptive patients who cannot seek relief in warmer climates.

Fevers, especially the contagious and epidemic, have always been considered by the Faculty, as diseases of the most serious importance; and great labor has been employed in the investigation of their qualities, causes, and symptoms. The expedition to Walcheren has unfortunately afforded many opportunities of studying the epidemic of marshy countries; and probably much light will be thrown on the causes and peculiarities of this fatal disease. This year has, however, hardly allowed time to elucidate the character of this epidemic, or to ascertain the quality of the causes that produced it. In some seasons, the fenny parts of this kingdom have suffered under the influence of this disease, a devastation nearly equal to that which took place in the Walcheren expedition; and the progress of the fever has been as severe, allowing for the aggravation that all diseases experience from circumstances peculiar to the military life. It has never been discovered why the marsh remittent becomes epidemic in some years only. Within the memory of many of our readers, this fever has had an extraordinary prevalence in England. In 1780 and in 1808 this happened; but we have not learned that any peculiarity proper to these years has been detected, sufficient to explain the cause of this. The ingenious Inquiry into the Laws of Epidemics, by Dr. Adams, published this year, though it goes far in elucidating many circumstances belonging to this class of diseases, and makes nice discriminations between this cause of fever and contagions, does not very distinctly mark the character of epidemic seasons. The non-contagious nature of various fevers, which have generally been allowed to have a contagious origin, the plague in particular, he contends for with much curious research into their history, and much able reasoning, but which do not carry with them full conviction. The yellow fever, that source not only of destruction to human life, but of perpetual collision of opinion, we are again called upon to notice by Dr. Chisholm's Letter to Dr. Haygarth; in which he exhibits additional evidence of the infectious nature of this distemper, and endeavours to correct the pernicious, as he calls them, doctrines promulgated by Dr. Edward Miller and other American physicians, relative to this pestilence. Dr. Chisholm supports his opinion both by facts and reasoning, and with an earnestness that shews his own conviction. The American physicians have been extremely

anxious

anxious to convince their brethren in other parts of the world, that the yellow fever is not contagious, but is produced by the extrication of some gaseous effluvia from putrid vegetable matter. In 1807, this opinion was examined with as much attention as the limits of this Sketch permitted; and it was contrasted with the arguments for contagious origin. The reasonings on both sides were so equally poised, that the mind was left in a state of indecision. Neither does it appear that the physicians of America are perfectly decided in their opinion; for we have now to state the promulgation of a new hypothesis in that country, or rather the revival of an old one, to explain the origin, not only of *Typhus icteroïdes*, but of all epidemics.

Dr. John Crawford of Baltimore, in a Memoir entitled, "Remarks on Quarantines," published in a periodical paper called the Observer, endeavours by a long train of reasoning to prove, not only that the yellow fever, but all other febrile affections, *are consequences of animalcular action upon human bodies.* This, the wildest of philosophical vagaries, has taken full possession of Dr. Crawford, who, earnest in his opinion, is zealous for its support. He is, however, probably not aware of the progress of this hypothesis in Europe; and that very early, and at various subsequent periods, it has agitated the medical world. In the twelfth century, the Arabians had some loose theory of this sort; and in 1598, Dr. Mouffet, in the *Theatrum Insectorum*, mentions the circumstance.—But the earliest detailed and regular accounts of diseases of the most formidable nature being generated by animalcula, is in Hauptman's *Epistola Preliminaris Tractatui de viva Mortis imagine, &c.* published at Frankfort, 1650. Augustus Hauptman took the degree of Doctor in Physic at Leipsic, in 1653, resided at Dresden, and had the reputation of being an excellent chemist. He has been better known among physicians by his wild notions respecting the primary cause of diseases, all of which he regarded as arising from some species of vermes. The Treatise *de viva Mortis imagine*, the precursor to which was published in 1650, does not appear to have been printed; but the year after Hauptman took his Doctor's degree, he published, at Dresden, an 8vo volume, in which he treats of animalcula as the cause of diseases, with a minuteness and precision uncommon at that period. The *Scrutinum Pestis* of Kircher, published at Rome in 1658, supports Hauptman's opinions with much ingenious subtlety. Kircher was a man of deep learning, as is evinced by his *Œdipus Egyptiacus*

Egyptiacus, Mundus subterraneus, and the *Organon mathematicum.* He was also a bold and original thinker, more disposed to pursue his own opinions, than respect the sentiments of others. Though his writings abound with varied erudition, it is evident, that a warm imagination led him to seek the wonderful rather than the useful. With this diposition, at a period when the knowledge of nature was at a very low standard, he professed to explain the origin, cause, and prognosis of the plague, on the animalcular hypothesis. With these writers originated, we apprehend, the doctrine of the *materia contagiosa* being a living animalcule. In this hypothetical course, Hauptman and Kircher were soon followed by physicians of reputation for physiological learning, and a knowledge of nature.

Among the earliest of these is found Christian Langius, a French physician, born at *Luccau,* in the lower Lusace; and who, after quickly reaching the highest honours in his profession, died in 1662, at the early age of 42 years. In an introductory Preface to Kircher's *Scrutinum Pestis,* published at Leipsic in 1659, Langius probably first made public his opinions on the properties of Animalcula, as producing disease; but his doctrines were more precisely defined in a posthumous work entitled, *Miscellanea Medica Curiosa.* In this the *pathologia animata* is supported, not by fact and experiment, but by ingenious arguments drawn from the subtleties of scholastic reasoning, and conjectures founded on visionary hypotheses. England has not been without its supporters of this absurd doctrine. In a discourse on the state of health, in the island of Jamaica, published in 1679, the author, Dr. Thomas Trapham, attempts to prove that syphilis and yaws are caused by minute insects; and arrogates to himself the invention of the hypothesis. Dr. Bradley was an advocate for this doctrine, and derived his Animalcula from Tartary. Long after this, Dr. Adam Freer, in an inaugural Dissertation *de Syphilitide Venerea,* published at Edinburgh, supports a Theory so whimsical, that it is not easy to believe him in earnest. On the authority of Hauptman, Langius, and Bonomo, he assumes the opinion that itch and lues arise from different species of the genus *Acarus*; and that from the congress of the syphilitic and itch acari, a hybrid variety is produced, giving rise to sivvens. Strange as this may appear, a practitioner, who resided at Sandwich in Kent, and wrote a book with the quaint title of *Vermiculars examined,* went much further; for he undertakes to

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prove, not only the existence of animalcules in all parts of the human frame, but that they are the cause of all diseases, and that every action of life originates with them. There has never been an opinion so absurd, but some theorist has adopted it with blind enthusiasm.

The ingenious surgeon, *Pierre Dessault*, of Bourdeaux, believed that syphilis was produced by animalcula, and that mercury proved a specific by the destruction it occasioned among this animated morbid material. In this opinion, like Trapham, he fails in originality; for it is evident, that his idea is taken from an hypothesis of *Antoine Dedier*, who resided at Montpellier in 1691, and died at Marseilles in 1746, when physician to the gallies in that port. In a dissertation *de Morbis Venereis*, published in 1723, *Dedier* argues, that an imperceptible vermis is the cause of syphilis; and that the disease is propagated by the transmission of this animalcule from one subject to another. But his hypothesis does not stop here. He warmly contends that the volatile and spirituous principle in vegetables depend on an assemblage of these worms. *Dedier*, notwithstanding his eager disposition to theorize, was a man of considerable learning, application, and ingenuity; of an open and ingenuous disposition, communicative of whatever he knew; and while physician to the *Hotel Dieu* at Montpellier, promptly answering all questions on his profession. It is probable his connection with *Raimond Vieussens*, whose daughter he married, and who was himself a wild and determined theorist, gave a bias to the mind of *Dedier*, fatal to his own reputation, and injurious to science.

As we approach nearer to the present times, and to an æra, when inquiries into the history of nature are not directed by the imagination, but by that sober faculty which admits nothing to be true that is not proved by carefully repeated experiments, we shall not find the animalcular hypothesis altogether abandoned. There was published at Vienna, in 1762, a volume, with the title of *Opera Medico Physica*, in which the author, *Maria Antonio Pleniz*, insists that bodies which are vulgarly supposed to rot, or to be dissolved by putrefaction, are devoured by myriads of animalcula; that the fœtor evolved from such bodies arises from the excrements of these animalcula; and that contagion is spread by their being wafted through the air, and carried from place to place. On this hypothesis, he attempts to account for the appearances in small-pox, measles, scarlatina, and all other contagious diseases. The

The northern school of science, at the head of which was the immortal Linneus, has given a degree of consequence and credit to the animalcular hypothesis, which it did not, perhaps could not, receive from any other source. When this profound naturalist, in his *Exanthemata Viva* became the advocate of this doctrine, and supported it by observations scattered throughout his numerous writings, his pupils, who had been accustomed to look on his opinions as incontrovertible, labored to convince the scientific world, that this, the weakest of those opinions, was founded on the rock of truth.

In the *Exanthemata Viva*, published at Upsal, in 1757, Linneus admits many more insects as the cause of exanthematous diseases than he had seen; and thus, by reasoning from analogy, instead of supporting the theory by known facts, becomes as hypothetical as his predecessors. In an academical oration at Upsal, delivered with a florid rhetoric, perhaps pardonable on such an occasion, it is observed, that the Supreme Disposer of all Things has given command to those minute animalcules, the *Sirones*, and the whole man becomes one loathsome contagion. In the same oration, other species of *Sirones* are alluded to, and denominated the ministers of disease and death; the source of plague, small-pox, spotted fever, and other spreading and infectious disorders.

In the *Amenœtates Academicæ*, where the above oration is found, *Michael A. Baecknor* asserts, that dysentery, syphilis, and the contagions that produce exanthemata, are derived from some undiscovered species of *acari*.

The animalcular hypothesis, when employed to explain the contagions of exanthemata, dysentery, syphilis, and rabies; and to account for the paroxysms of epilepsy and the ravings of mania, rests solely on loose analogies and forced conjectures; and the admission of it generally, would have been fatal to the practice of medicine. Mercury, sulphur, and arsenic, would have been resorted to in all diseases, by physicians under the influence of this hypothesis; and medicines of the most pernicious qualities would have been given in pestis, variola, morbilli, scarlatina, &c. or possibly the principles laid down by a French empiric named *Boile*, might have superceded rational practice. About 1727, this person maintained at Paris, that all diseases were produced by animalcula in the blood, and different diseases by different animalcula; that

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that there were other animalcula which were enemies to the noxious ones, and had the power to pursue and destroy them. He pretended to be well acquainted with the noxious animalcula, and with their several enemies, by means of which the sick might be relieved. He asserted also, that he well knew the medicines abounding with the auxiliary animalcules. All this he pretended to demonstrate by a microscope formed for the purpose; but the trick was soon discovered, and the Charlatan fled with his glasses and auxiliary animalcula.

In no other instance within the circle of theoretical speculation, has an hypothesis arisen so little capable of being subjected to practical purposes, as that which derives diseases from living animalcula. It is singular that this opinion, so long since rejected in Europe, should again be promulgated in America. But it is not by hypothesis, however cunningly supported, that improvement in the science of medicine is to be effected; on plain facts only can useful practice be founded.

From these visionary scenes we turn with increasing satisfaction to the sober path of scientific truth. Among the works that come nearest to this standard, we are induced particularly to notice the "Observations on some of the most frequent and important diseases of the heart; on aneurism of the thoracic aorta; on preternatural pulsation in the epigastric region; and on the unusual origin and distribution of some of the large arteries of the human body," by Mr. Allen Burns. A work intended to treat of all the diseases of the heart, should arrange them, in the opinion of Mr. Burns, under three distinct classes.

The first class should contain the sympathetic affections, or those diseases which are dependent on the consent which this organ has with other parts of the body.

The second class, those affections which are brought on by such malconformations of the heart, as give rise to a mixture of the venous with the arterial blood.

And the third, those diseases induced by some organic affection of the heart, which mechanically impairs the circulation, but not necessarily alters the composition or properties of the blood.

The second and third classes only are treated of in this work, in which many cases are inserted, and much practical information.

This addition to the history and treatment of the diseases of this important organ, will be properly placed in medical libraries

libraries by the side of SENAC's admirable *Traite de la Structure du Cœur, de son action et de ses maladies.**

This year has produced further Observations upon two of the most dreadful maladies that afflict mankind, but without much prospect of lessening their fatality. Over cancer and hydrophobia, the medical art has hitherto maintained but little power; this should not, however, deter from investigation. In the cure of these diseases every thing is yet to be learned; their cause remains obscure, and the history of their characteristic symptoms is not sufficiently distinct. It would be desirable to see this investigation marked by attentive observation, by an unprejudiced examination of facts, and having the authority of sober experience instead of wild invention. Upon the first of these calamitous afflictions, *carcinoma*, and the peculiar tumour which is understood generally to precede it, Dr. Lambe has published "Reports," in which he details the effects of regimen. This physician has long cherished opinions upon the properties and powers of water, that mankind will not very soon be convinced are true. "Water is," he says, "a poison which affects every fibre of the body; it is the direct and immediate agent in the production of cancer, and may fairly be suspected to be operative in the production of all diseases attended with a solution of continuity." In a former work, to which this may be considered as the sequel, Dr. Lambe endeavoured to prove that all water contains arsenic; and that this is the material that gives to it destructive qualities. By distillation, he considers this fluid to be separated from its arsenical impregnation, and when thus purified, believes, by its constant use to the exclusion of every other potation, cancer may be cured; but he advises as auxiliary to this process a diet of vegetables in their raw state. Whether chronic and constitutional diseases may be mitigated or even cured, by a total change of all the ingesta, is not yet absolutely determined; and it is to be lamented, that Dr. Lambe's inquiry on this point has been generally hypothetical, and but little founded on a course of experiments.

* Tissot said of Senac's Work, "Cet ouvrage n'accroit rien laissé a desirer, si son illustre auteur, en annonçant une second edition, ne nous avoit pas appris, qu'il pouvoit le rendre encore plus parfait. Un grand homme peut se surpasser lui-meme, et voir un point de perfection que les autres ne desirent meme pas." Unfortunately, Senac did not live to produce this corrected and improved edition.

ments. On the subject of this disease, Mr. Carmichael has published a second edition of his Essay, enlarged by a great number of cases, in which his proposed remedy seems to have been of decided advantage. Mr. Carmichael's Essay contains many curious facts and observations on diseases, and on the effects produced upon them by medicine. One fact, in particular, states, that the carbonate of iron, when applied to simple ulceration, or venereal chancre, brings on violent pain and inflammation; but is completely unirritating to the cancerous sore. This fact has so frequently occurred to Mr. Carmichael, that he does not doubt its truth. If so, this substance affords, were it required, a criterion by which to distinguish cancerous ulceration.

The Medico-Chirurgical Transactions gives a very distinctly marked case of hydrophobia, by Dr. Marcet; which was likewise seen by Dr. Yelloly, Mr. Astley Cooper, and other Medical Gentlemen. It terminated fatally in five days. An examination of the body took place, which has not proved more explanatory than other dissections. There was some appearance of inflammation in the stomach; "the pharynx was considerably inflamed, behind both the mouth and nose; and in the œsophagus there were several detached spots of inflammation at various distances, in the course of the canal." Two practical inferences are deduced from the history of this case.

1st. It confirms the inutility of opium, and proves that the preparations of iron and of arsenic have no power over this disease.

2d. That as pain about the part bitten is one of the earliest indications of the virus becoming active, it shows, with much probability, that for an indefinite time, generally not less than three weeks, the poison remains at the part where it was inserted; and therefore it is never too late to employ the knife or caustic. As it cannot be proved that the virus spreads immediately from the part where it is inserted, or at all, until some local morbid action supervenes; no hypothesis should operate, at any period, to prevent the employment of excision, or other topical means for its destruction.

Dr. Geo. Lipscomb insists on the necessity of destroying the bitten part, either by excision or caustic, and recommends the employment of mercury; a medicine, which, notwithstanding its failure in every authentic instance, this writer still considers as fully equal to the cure of hydrophobia. If Dr. Lipscomb has experienced its efficacy

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in so many instances, why are those instances concealed? Because the disclosure might expose the feelings of his patients, *says the Doctor,* to inquiries highly "indecorous and distressing," and to "curiosity, indelicate or impertinent." We consider it as a great misfortune, that the delicate feelings of Dr. Lipscomb's patients should prevent the publication of that evidence which alone can establish his assertions. But if the opinion and conclusions of Mr. Maryan are to be admitted, society will sustain no loss by this suppression of evidence. It has been the fate of *rabies* to excite, at one time, the most serious alarm; and at another, to have its very existence, as a disease *sui generis,* denied. After a detail of cases, and a series of observations so recently reported, and authenticated by men of undoubted veracity and knowledge, some surprise was occasioned by a Treatise "explaining the impossibility of the disease termed hydrophobia being caused by the bite of any rabid animal." The reasonings of Mr. Maryan will no more induce the public to suffer dogs afflicted with this disease to range without controul, wherever their disorder impels, than the arguments of those ingenious gentlemen, who would persuade the world that plague is not contagious, will make the governors of states neglect every means to prevent its importation.

Neither can we yet be persuaded, that the hypothesis of Mr. Maryan, or the assertion of Mr. Lipscomb, in favour of a particular remedy, will prevent the honest and intelligent practitioner pursuing the only right mode of inquiry. By a close, faithful, and unprejudiced observation of symptoms throughout every stage of the disease; by an attention to the apparent effects of medicine upon it, making an accurate distinction between those effects and its natural phenomena; and by a minute examination of morbid appearances on dissection, by men duly qualified, much may yet be done, to combat this hitherto invariably fatal disorder.*

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* The inhabitants of *Hoya de Castalla,* in the Southern part of Valencia, have, from time immemorial, been in possession of a remedy for the bite of the viper. This remedy is composed of sea holly, (*Eryngium maritimum*), vipers bugloss (*Ecnium vulgare*), thorny madwort, (*Alyssum spinosum*), and cretan balm (*Melissa cretica*).† These plants are taken when

† The identity of the *Melissa cretica* seems doubtful. Cavanilles says, the plant used is the *Nepeta marifolia.* We are still as much at a loss. What is the *Nepeta Marifolia*?

There is another point connected with this inquiry, which, if properly attended to, may further elucidate the natural and medical history of rabies. The progress of disease among dogs and other animals presents a wide and almost uncultivated field for investigation. By exploring this, discoveries may possibly be made of essential importance to the right understanding of hydrophobia. In France, the disease has been propagated among quadrupeds by inoculation. In the preceding numbers of this Journal, Mr. Surr has given an interesting, and we trust a faithful history of this disorder, as it appeared in horses; and Dr. Jenner, (Medico-Chir. Trans. vol. I. 1809) by Observations on the *Distemper* in Dogs, has set an example highly worthy of imitation; and has accurately taught us to distinguish between that disease and *Rabies*. The distemper has the marked character of being "as contagious as the small-pox, measles, and scarlet fever, among the human species; and the contagious miasmata, like those arising from the diseases just mentioned, retain their infectious properties a long time after separation from the distempered animal." From the study that has been applied to the diseases of quadrupeds, since veterinary medicine has become a branch of regular scientific education; and, more especially, from the attention that has been given to the *variola vaccinæ*, from the time Dr. Jenner brought it before the public, it may be expected that a full and accurate view

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when they begin to run to seed, and dried in the shade till all their humidity is evaporated. Each is then separately pulverized, and passed through a hair sieve. These powders are mixed together in equal quantities, to form the medicine. The dose for a man, 1 scrup.; for a dog, 1 dr.; to be taken morning and evening, for nine days, in wine and water. We have been induced to copy this recipe from the positive assertion that the Spanish Botanist, *Cavanilles*, as well as some physicians of Spain, have found it a completely successful remedy for hydrophobia.

marifolia? The *Nepeta cataria*, a native of Britain, possesses some active qualities, and should not be overlooked in this inquiry. It is tolerably well authenticated that this plant occasions abortion in cattle that chance to feed on it; and cats are so delighted with it, that they cannot be kept out of the garden where it grows. Ray asserts, that cats will not touch the plants raised from seeds, but only the transplanted ones: and Millar confirms this from his own experience. This fact was probably first noticed from an old dogrell rhyme.

If you set it,
The cats will eat it;
If you sow it,
The cats will not know it.

The undeniably powerful effect the *N. cataria* has on the nerves of the cat, may encourage a slender hope; where every thing has hitherto failed, it should be tried. The Journal from which the Spanish recipe is copied, blunders so much on the Botanical names, calling Sea Holly *Eryngium campestre*, that it cannot claim much confidence; and perhaps, *Nepeta marifolia* is of its own creation.

view will soon be had of the morbid derangements of this class of animals.*

We have already seen a disease of the cow, which a few years ago was either unknown or unnoticed, exciting the observation of mankind in all parts of the world; and leading to physiological and pathological disquisitions that develope some mysteries of animal life, in a manner, at once interesting to the philosopher, and beneficial to society. In the progress of the inquiry into those diseases among quadrupeds, which are connected with, and influence the health of the human race, it is to be much regretted, that so small a portion of liberality has been exercised. Indecorous language and finesse have marked the conduct of some busy supporters of vaccination, in this country at least; while its opposers have invented unsuccessful cases, distorted truth, and abused the public feeling, by fabricating relations of new and loathsome diseases, arising from the introduction of this morbid poison into the human frame. Though the disgraceful manner in which this controversy has been conducted subsides, as the persons originally concerned in it retire from the combat; yet vaccination itself is, perhaps, in more danger from the scientific scrutiny to which it has this year been subjected. Indeed, from attacks conducted with moderation, liberality, and science, it can only be defended by the truth of its principles, and the efficacy of its practice. Among many publications on vaccination in 1809, the most considerable are Thomson's plain statement of facts in favour of cow-pox. Smith's comparative advantages of cow-pox and small-pox inoculations. Brice's practical observations on the inoculation of cow-pox. Brown's inquiry into the anti-variolous power of vaccination. Report of the surgeons of the Edinburgh vaccine institution; containing an examination of the opinions and statements of Mr. Brown. Brown's letter in reply to this report. And Carneiro's reflections and observations on the practice of vaccine inoculation.

The last in this list, purporting to be the production of a Portuguese physician, is remarkable for its prejudices, blunders, and false statements. Hostile to the cause of vaccination,

* A Treatise on the Diseases and Management of Sheep, by Sir G. S. Mackenzie, affords a valuable accession, this year, to veterinary medicine; and gives the best detail hitherto made public, of the treatment of the disorders incident to this useful animal, illustrated by its Anatomy.

vaccination, it repeats the absurdities of the lowest English anti-vaccinists; and from the circumstance of its promulgation among a superstitious and ignorant people, it is formed to produce an effect injurious to a cause which every friend to science and to mankind must wish to see fairly investigated.*

The practical part of medical literature has been further increased by Mr. Ward's facts, establishing the efficacy of opiate frictions in spasmodic and febrile diseases; Observations on the use of mercury in hepatic affections, by Drs. Saunders and Curry; by a republication of Professor Hamilton's treatise on female complaints; and by a third edition of Dr. James Hamilton's observations on the utility and administration of purgative medicines in several diseases. Also by a new edition of Mr. Hunter's treatise on the venereal disease, with a commentary by Dr. Adams. Dr. Arnold's observations on the management of the insane; and Cheyne's pathology of the larynx and bronchia. The *Ars Obstetrica* and the *Materia Medica* have likewise received considerable additions.

In the first, Mr. Burns's principles of Midwifery; and in the second, a new edition of the Pharmacopœia of the College of Physicians of London, claim particular attention. Notwithstanding we already possess some valuable systematic treatises on the principles and practice of midwifery, the work of Mr. Burns cannot be considered as superfluous. It comprehends the practical improvements of the present period, and gives a full and faithful view of the science as it now appears. In particular, it has the excellence of connecting every subject, directly or indirectly appertaining to the theory or practice of obstetrics. After a lapse of twenty years and upwards, the additions made to the catalogue of our *Materia Medica*, or a more correct knowledge of the properties of substances already admitted into that catalogue; an improved nomenclature of chemistry, and a profounder acquaintance with the principles and practice of that art; the general prevalence of terms employed in the sciences of botany and natural history, were deemed by the College of Physicians of suf-

* With much satisfaction we have learned that the test of re-inoculation with variolous virus has been employed in Dublin, to a considerable extent, on the vaccinated of various periods; and without, in any instance, producing small-pox. This fact is authenticated by the signatures of many respectable surgeons in Dublin.

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ficient force to induce a republication of their Pharmacopœia, in a form corresponding with, and adapted to, the present improved state of scientific knowledge. Two translations of this work have appeared, one by Dr. Powel, and the other by Dr. Campbell. A practical *Materia Medica*, a *Pharmacopæia Chirurgica*, and Dr. Thornton's elaborate Herbal, containing the properties of plants used in medicine, diet, and the arts, are to be added to this enumeration. The authority from whence the London Pharmacopœia proceeds, gives to it an elevation of station, which equally displays its excellencies and its defects. No human production is faultless. Whether the London Pharmacopœia has a larger proportion of this penalty of man than should in reason belong to it, party will determine; but with a spirit that will hardly admit a cool and candid judgment. Errors certainly it has; but these seem more the fault of inattention than of intellect. Of the two translations, it may be said, that they have mistakes which might and ought to have been avoided. Upon very different ground are they, however, censurable. Dr. Powell owes to his station, and to the College, more attention and care than his translation exhibits. Dr. Campbell, when one of his objects, at least, in publishing, was to reprehend Dr. Powell, should himself have been free from errors equally glaring, and more dangerous.

A mode of relieving, and sometimes of curing diseases, of very antient application, and when subjected to proper management, of extraordinary efficacy, has, this year, had the chance of being elucidated by the taste and liberality of a gentleman who possesses all the means for the encouragement of science that ample wealth affords.

The honourable Basil Cochrane, from observations on the *vapour bath* in India, and other places, and perhaps excited by the publication of Dr. Kentish's Essay on warm and vapour baths, has erected, at his house in Portman-square, an ingenious and extensive apparatus, which, by various mechanical contrivances, controuls the vapour of boiling water in a manner that renders it of easy application. The construction of this apparatus and its application, Mr. Cochrane communicates to the public in a 4to. volume, with eleven explanatory plates, under the title of "An improvement in the mode of administering the Vapour Bath, and in the apparatus connected with it; with the plans of fixed and portable baths for hospitals and private houses, and some practical suggestions on the efficacy of vapour, in application to various diseases of the human frame, and as may be beneficial to the branch of veterinary

ry medicine." It has been the fate of the *vapour bath* to have often been the resort of empiricism; and the positive assertions of projectors and partizans, that it has suddenly cured the most obstinate diseases, have had the misfortune to give it an air of charlatanism, which it has not always deserved. Under the impression of this fact, our anxiety to guard against the designs of quackery, whether it attacks from batteries disguised by the humanity of the honourable and the affluent, lurks in the ambuscade of diurnal paragraphs, or impudently issues to the destruction of mankind in the armour of a patent, may occasion observations that appear to implicate Mr. Cochraue. To obviate this impression, it becomes a duty to say, that a fairness and honourable candour are manifest in the views of this gentleman, accompanied with a desire to lessen the sufferings of human nature. Though we ad mit, in the fullest manner, the liberality of Mr. Cochrane's intentions, we see no reason to change an opinion matured by many years of reflection, that the powerful and rich will afford more effectual means for the improvement of medical science, by an encouragement of persons practically employed in its cultivation, than by attempting themselves to cure diseases; or by fancying that the *therapeutica* can be suddenly improved by means adopted on slight evidence, founded on single facts often ill understood, and by hastily-drawn inferences. The most sanguine can hardly expect that the experience and observation of Mr. Cochrane can add much to medical science; but if he has enabled those who are in the constant habit of watching the progress of disease, to observe the effects produced by the application of heat in the form of vapour, he has benefited society more essentially than he can by any detail of morbid affections managed by himself. When we hazard these observations, we do not mean to detract from the liberal ingenuity of Mr. Cochrane; but we know there is a habit, which from long exercise becomes almost intuition, that enables the medical practitioner to observe, and distinguish with acuteness and precission, the smallest shades of deviation from the healthy state; and to discover with quick penetration the nature and quality of symptoms, extremely obscure, doubtful, or absolutely unintelligible to the gentleman doctor. It is this habit too which enables the physician to discriminate the causes of cures, and which are often very different from those which popular opinion assigns. Under the direction of the gentleman whose name appears to certify

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the practicable ingenuity of the construction of these baths, the curative powers of the vapour of heated water may be fully ascertained; and we anxiously hope that this may not prove another ephemeral project, but that the enthusiasm of Mr. Cochrane, under the guidance of men of science, and learned in the operations of nature, not only by study but by habit, may prove what the vapour bath will, and what it will not do.

The sciences considered as auxiliary to the medical art have not been neglected; and if their career has not been so brilliant in this as in some former years, still that career is not without interest. Botany, Chemistry, and Natural History, have each had some additions in 1809. Mr. Joseph Knight has published some ingenious and practical observations on the cultivation of the plants belonging to the natural order of *Proteceæ*, with their generic and specific characters, and places where they grow wild. A second edition of Dr. Smith's valuable introduction to physiological and systematic botany, has appeared; and a new edition of a very pleasing little book, with the title of Elements of the Science of Botany, as established by Linnæus, with examples to illustrate the classes and orders of his system.

Chemistry, which, by the genius of Mr. Davy, has been raised in England to a very exalted station, still pursues its investigations with alacrity. The researches of this chemist, directed to the decomposition of bodies hitherto thought elementary, are employed with an ardour that probably will effect discoveries of great importance.

The French chemists, since Mr. Davy's brilliant discovery of the base of alkalies, have been deeply engaged on that subject; and have been able to procure *potassium* by chemical affinities, without the aid of galvanism. The inquiry into the constituent principles of bodies by chemical analysis, has been followed with much assiduity; and when employed with a view of developing their properties and powers, has been of much service to society. On this subject, the chemists of France have done much; neither have those of England been idle. Dr. Bostock, as noticed in the preceding part of this Report, has been engaged in examining the constituent parts of the blood; and has also instituted an experimental inquiry to ascertain the real nature of vegetable astringents. M. M. Vauquelin and Le Sage have analysed the juice of the *atropa belladonna*, and made experiments with it on animals. M. Nyston has injected various gases into the blood vessels of animals, and reports

reports the effects produced on those animals, and the changes occasioned in the blood itself.

A subject of great interest to the farmer, and not very remotely connected with the practice of physic, has employed the talents of M. M. Fourcroy and Vauquelin. They have analysed the smut of wheat, which is stated to consist of phosphoric acid, phosphoric salts, a carbonaceous matter, and a fœtid oil; and is gluten in a state of decomposition. There is no circumstance that has excited in the agriculturist a greater degree of anxious curiosity than this peculiarity in wheat. Many hypotheses have been formed as to its nature and origin: sometimes it has been asserted to originate with animalculæ, or to be animalculæ itself: at another, it is a parasitical fungus, a non-descript agaric: and now it is a gluten under particular circumstances. Perhaps even yet we do not understand its real nature and properties. The farmer believes it to have a contagious principle, and is eager to free the mass of sound grain from it by washing with water, with solutions of sea salt, arsenic, or sometimes an alkaline ley. Secret, and if we mistake not, patent nostrums have been employed in England to remove or eradicate this animal or vegetable contamination from among sound wheat. Various opinions have been entertained of the efficacy of the means employed; but it seems, as the object is to remove the particles of this substance merely, that a strong solution of *potass* promises to succeed best. This singular substance, whatever it is, has a peculiar fœtor, well known to farmers and millers; and which it imparts, with its dark colour, to meal.

Persons compelled to eat bread made of meal thus contaminated, may, it is not improbable, have their health much injured. And in this point, it becomes to the physician an important object of inquiry. That those singular cases of gangrene which have been attributed to feeding upon meal made from injured corn, or from corn having a large admixture of *lolium temulentum,* were not occasioned by smut, may be, at least, doubted.

The remark that was applied to Richerand's work on Surgery, is also suitable to the ingenious Memoir of the celebrated traveller Humboldt, "*sur l'Anguille eléctrique du Nouveau Continent,*" which was published at Paris, about the same time with the *Nosographie Chirurgicale.* If the connection of natural history with the medical art is more remote than botany and chemistry, still in many instances it strongly illustrates the physiological branch of that art; nd, as in the present, may possibly tend to explain some

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very obscure functions of the animal machine. In this Memoir of M. Humboldt, will be found extremely curious facts respecting the *gymnotics electricuns*. The method of taking the fish, the history of its powers, with observations on those circumstances, afford not only an entertaining relation, but materials for prosecuting the history of Animal Electricity. Perhaps the circumstance of its instantly losing its electric power on the separation or destruction of the brain, may lead to further knowledge of the *modus operandi* of that organ and the nerves.

The importance of Medical Jurisprudence we have always felt it a duty to assert, and the still doubtful Liverpool Case, again occasions it to be noticed. The controversy arising from that case has extended to the present year; and two pamphlets, on opposite sides, shew distinctly how far it has excited a local sensation. Mr. Dawson's "Exposure of some of the false Statements contained in Dr. Carson's Pamphlet," and Dr. Campbell's "Reflections on the Vindication of the Opinions delivered by the medical witnesses for the Crown," will probably terminate the dispute: but not with it, we trust, the impression which the subject and the mode of investigating it has produced. About the period of the trial at Lancaster, another remarkable one, for procuring abortion, took place at St. Edmunds Bury. A curious physiological fact was subjected to some investigation at this trial. It became an object to the Court to ascertain the period of quickening,* and whether the fœtus then first receives the principle of animation. The evidence on this question, shews how vaguely professional men understand the subject; and how indeterminate the law upon it is, from a want of precise knowledge of the fact. The parties escaped punishment in this instance, because they employed the effectual mode of procuring abortion, when the law only reaches a method that is always ineffectual.

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* Quickening, as it is popularly termed, is a sensation of a peculiar quality, occurring to most women at some period of utero-gestation, (between the 10th and 25th week, says a writer of great authority;) and is believed to be the first indication of life in the fœtus. Perhaps this sensation has no dependance on the life of the fœtus, but is simply produced by the impregnated uterus rising suddenly out of the pelvis into the cavity of the abdomen. This peculiar sensation occurs but once; and is never reproduced by any subsequent motions of the fœtus. A very little attention might ascertain the fact. Do women labouring under a retroverted uterus ever experience the

The benefit that has arisen from establishing literary and scientific societies, has not operated to a greater extent in any branch of human learning, than in the medical art. In 1808, we endeavoured to point out the advantages of such institutions, though in a manner confessedly inadequate to describe their extensive utility. Our attention is again called to the subject by the Medical and Chirurgical Society of London having published the first volume of its Transactions. In the year 1805, several physicians and surgeons of the metropolis of the British Empire, "held a meeting for the purpose of *considering the best means of obviating the acknowledged want of a Society founded upon liberal and independent principles, and conducted with propriety and dignity.*" The result of this meeting was the formation of the *Medical and Chirurgical Society of London,* composed certainly of a most respectable portion of the medical talent and consequence of the metropolis Several papers in the volume published by this Society, have already been noticed; the remainder are of a practical nature generally, and are indebted for their utility more to the quantum of their facts, than to the plausibility of their theories.

The writer of this *Annual Historical Sketch of the Progress of the Medical Art,* has occasionally added his mite of information to the subjects that came under his notice, by such remarks and short details as the subjects themelves suggested; and especially while giving a history of passing events, has he believed it proper to strongly impress the value of veracity, and to inculcate an unbiased study of Nature. "THE VOLUME OF NATURE IS THE BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE; AND HE BECOMES MOST WISE WHO MAKES THE MOST JUDICIOUS SELECTION."

Princes Street, Cavendish Square,
June 15, 1810.

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the sensation of quickening? If this explanation of a singular fact in the female economy should hereafter be ascertained to be false; still, as our present uncertainty on the subject gives occasion to much physical or metaphysical jargon; and especially as the laws recognize the circumstance to mark the line of division between the legal innocence and criminality of certain actions, it is not undeserving inquiry.

Case of Tetanus. By Mr. R. Jones, Surgeon.

MRS. MARTIN, residing at No. 4, Bowl and Pin Alley, aged about 52 years, in going through Old Boswell Court, on Monday the 23d of April, was wounded in the left cheek by an arrow, shot by a little boy; which was formed of a stick sharply pointed. The point of it, about half an inch in length, remained fixed in the cheek, and had penetrated the masseter muscle, but not deeply, being rather in a slanting direction. She called upon me about ten minutes after the accident. I extracted the portion fixed, and a little blood issued out. I dressed it simply, and desired her to call upon me the next morning. She however returned the evening of the same day a little agitated; described herself as feeling much pain in the wound, and a dimness in the sight of the left eye, of which, she feared she should lose the use. I told her to poultice the wound, and to call upon me in the morning; and solaced her with the hopes of no such disagreeable consequence happening. I heard no more of her till Wednesday evening about ten o'clock, when she sent for me. I found her suffering under very violent attacks of tetanus, and a great degree of trismus. The flexors of the lower extremities were quite rigid; abdomen tense; and whenever the spasms came on, which was every five or ten minutes, the actions of the diaphragm and abdominal muscles seemed particularly to distress her. She often laid hold of my hand and applied it to her abdomen, and a loud gurgling noise was heard, as if from the undulation of water. The muscles of the neck and face were rigid, and sometimes contorted, particularly on the left side, and an efflorescence suddenly appeared and disappeared. As she had no evacuation since Monday, I ordered her a glyster; also a mixture, containing ninety drops of tinct. opii, to take a fourth part every two hours, and opening pills, composed of calomel, gr. x. Ext. coloc. c. ℥i. Opii purif. gr. iij. ft. pil xij. Cap. iij. 6ta, quaque hora.

Thursday 26. I was this day informed by her attendants, rather imperfectly, of the progress of this disease from Monday to Wednesday evening. It appears she was attacked a few hours after I saw her on Monday night, with what they called cramps, &c. She immediately sent for me, but from some cause or other, the messenger went elsewhere. When I called this morning, I found her suffering under an aggravation of all the symptoms; sensible

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to every thing that was said to her, but speechless; she took a part of her medicine with difficulty, but could not be persuaded to have the glyster. I endeavoured to get down some medicine; and after much difficulty, she swallowed a pill of five grains of calomel, and about eighty or ninety drops of tinct. opii. I also ordered her neck, chest, and abdomen to be fomented. She retained the greatest part of a glyster, that was administered this day. When I saw her again in the evening, every symptom was aggravated; and every attempt at deglutition was as distressing as it was unavailing; all I could hope for, was to get down the five grain pills of calomel, to each of which I now united one grain of antim. tart. with directions to take them every six hours, and to wash them down with about a drachm of tinct opii. diluted with each dose. She had had no stool to day, but passed her urine freely.

Friday 27. The patient had in the course of last night and this morning vomited up some black mucous substance, and passed a stool of the same appearance. The tetanic symptoms, though very violent in the night, are certainly not so now. We were able to get down the medicines with tolerable ease. In the evening she wrote down, that she should like some collared eels, and a little porter. They were introduced in the same manner that her medicine is administered, through the vacancy left by the loss of her upper front teeth. She was able to take a little, and it was the only nourishment she had taken for three days. Her jaws were completely locked these two days, except when they were forced open by the spasms, yet she appeared to all about her better this evening.

Saturday 28. When I visited her this morning she was in a most profuse perspiration, with the affected muscles as rigid and contracted as ever. Her lower extremities were drawn up towards her body. She attempted to take some tea but could not; though at particular times, I was told, she swallowed with tolerable ease; but whenever I saw her attempt it, the spasms of the fauces and throat were very distressing, and much resembled that of a person suffering from hydrophobia. When I saw her again this evening, she perspired freely, and made signs that she was better. Her medicines are continued, but with less calomel, and the antim. tart. is entirely omitted.

Sunday 29. She is this morning better; has had no severe spasms since Friday night. She articulates more distinctly. Her attendants are able to introduce the point of a tea spoon through the vacancy left by the loss of her upper front

front teeth, and in that manner she has sucked about two-thirds of the yolke of an egg, and some porter; but the most promising announcement of this day is, the absence of those distressing spasms that accompanied every effort at deglutition. Her sight is also much recovered, but as the calomel did not act upon the bowels, I ordered this morning a cathartic mixture. About two o'clock in the afternoon, she experienced a most violent attack of spasms, commencing in the wounded cheek, and instantaneously attacking the left side of the neck and arm, down to the fingers. In the course of a minute or two they became inflamed, and in about fifteen minutes after were completely black. This blackness seemed to proceed in the course of the nerves of the left brachial plexus, the first or axillary nerve of which had been so affected the day before; but the whole body seemed writhed with the spasms. She became tranquil again in the evening.

Monday 30. The blackness in the arm is gone off, but around the left eye and cheek a similar affection took place; which terminated in the same manner. She has had three copious evacuations during the night; has taken nourishment, and feels considerably better. She can now distinctly describe her wants and feelings, as her tongue seems now completely released. We could not prevail upon her to take her medicines regularly these two days, as she has discovered that laudanum is given to her; to which she has a particular aversion.

Tuesday, May 1st. Continues better; has had more evacuations, and also vomited once. For these two days she has complained of a pain extending from the wound, which is completely healed, to the mouth, and of a disagreeable smell. Her jaws remained closed, although she has attempted to separate them by a variety of instruments.

Wednesday 2. She was by no means so well this morning; had been much troubled with spasms last night, which partially attacked her throat. The pain in the wounded cheek was, at times, very acute; and like nothing, as she said, that she could describe. She felt pain also in the other side, proceeding along the upper lip, and over the arch of the nose; but by no means of equal violence. She vomited once, and had several motions. I thought proper to persist in the exhibition of mercury; but from the state of her stomach and bowels, preferred the friction. A drachm of ung. hydr. fort. with ten grains of camphor, was directed to be rubbed inside of the thigh every night and morning. The left hand was last night so clenched, that

that her nails had penetrated the skin; but I could move the first and second joints of the fingers this morning.

Thursday 3. She was, upon the whole, better to day, but felt much pain at the soles of her feet.

Friday 4. Still better. The ointment is readily absorbed, and she has had no severe spasms since Wednesday night. The trismus continues, and her extremities much in the same state. She has taken some rice milk and porter, to which she is very partial; and though she swallows with a great deal more ease, yet there is still a difficulty.

Saturday 5. Much the same as yesterday. The quantity of calomel she had before taken, with the subsequent inunction of the ointment, has brought on a ptyalism. Her gums do not appear much affected, but as she feels a soreness about her mouth, and her tongue is swelled, I have desisted from the friction. The only amelioration that I could mark to day, is a greater freedom in the knee joints.

Sunday 6. Better in respect to the tetanic symptoms, but had been several times sick, and rejected the slight nourishment she had taken within the last twenty-four hours. Complains more than usual of the pain in the left hypochondrium; and whenever she closes her left eye, the most horrid objects present themselves to her. A large blister applied to the nape of the neck.

Monday 7. She was much harrassed all this day with purging and vomiting, and appears completely under the influence of mercury.

Tuesday 8. Much better this morning. The rigidity of the flexors of the lower extremities is sensibly less. She complains of considerable pain about the umbilicus, and has now quite a sore mouth. There is still much irritability of the stomach.

Thursday 10. The sickness now and then recurs, with some irritation of the bowels; but the acute pain which she felt at the umbilicus is going off. The whole of the body is this day covered with an efflorescence, and the mouth exhibits the mercury in full force. She has now the perfect use of both her arms. It may not be amiss to remark, that the eyes, during the whole of this attack, never twinkled, and the eye-lids could only be brought together by the fingers.

Saturday 12. My patient had been a great deal better the last three days, was even able to sit up in bed, and talked of getting up to have her bed made; but last night she was exposed to a current of air through a broken

pane

pane of glass; it fell, she says, upon the wounded cheek, and afterwards through her whole body. She is not so well this morning.

Sunday 13. Passed an indifferent night, and is visibly affected with cold. She has a cough upon her, and considerable pain at her left side. Her pulse is not much affected, nor has it brought on any spasms, though I rather fear them. There is a slight tremulation in all the muscles of her body. She cannot retain any thing on her stomach, nor can I get her to take opium in any quantity.

Monday 14. The spasms came on last night, and continued the whole of this day in the most violent degree, particularly in the abdominal muscles and diaphragm. In the course of the evening she threw up some black jelly-like looking substance, and was relieved. I ordered the abdomen to be again fomented, and allowed her as much Hollands or wine as her stomach would bear. She continues to have a free discharge of saliva, and her bowels are kept moderately open.

Tuesday 15. She is this morning considerably better; the spasms do not recur so often, nor continue violent.

Saturday 19. Continues amending, but the least exposure to cold is apt to bring on some degree of spasm. She is however infinitely better than she was on the Monday.

Thursday 24. My patient is now so much amended that I have discontinued my regular visits. I do not consider her recovery as at all doubtful; but am perfectly aware that she will for some time to come, feel the effects of so violent an attack. She has little or no discharge of saliva, and can now separate her jaws to some extent.

Having traced this strongly marked and generally fatal complaint to a favourable issue, a variety of remarks and suggestions will naturally arise as to the success of the method of treatment adopted in this Case.

Sir William Blizard, in his Lecture on Tetanus, at the College, has favoured us with one or two cases successfully treated by very strong doses of calomel and opium, and an inordinate allowance of wine; I believe, to one patient, three bottles a day, for some days. I should infer the fatal termination of this complaint in general, to be owing, in a great measure, to a total cessation or derangement of the functions of the viscera; for when, after the tartar emetic, and subsequently from other causes, my patient vomited that black offensive matter, she was visibly better. I do not recollect the tartarised antimony being recommended by any author, but I am disposed to think

think very favourably of it in the first stage of the complaint. Opium has been long in much repute; circumstances did not admit its being given to that extent as to warrant me to attribute any thing to it in this instance. Not so with my principal remedy, for I am disposed to speak very highly of hydrargyrus. As soon as the patient was under its influence, the spasms gradually gave way; but it would be needless to add, after what I have before stated, of what serious importance it is, that the patient should not be exposed to cold. I cannot, for this reason, at all recommend the cold bath. In one instance to my knowledge, at a public hospital, a few months ago, a patient was put into a cold bath, and she died a few hours after; but this should not deter us from trying it in idiopathic tetanus. Before I conclude, I must again exhort most particular attention to be paid to the stomach and bowels in tetanus; an advice particularly recommended by Sir Wm. Blizard; and one, which I repeatedly witnessed the good of attending to throughout this case.

Chancery Lane, May 29, 1810.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

I Beg leave to lay before you the following singular cure of Syphilis by Opium. In the month of April, 1808, W. Vaughan, a cooper at Thornbury, Gloucestershire, applied to me, after he had been declared by all the medical men of this town, incurable of the syphilis. He, as he informs me, had been a whole year under the care of a practitioner of this place, without success; nor did any person expect him to survive. Both of the tibiæ were carious, as well as the os malæ and processus mastoidei; there was also a large tumour, about the size of a double fist, on the os frontis, apparently filled with matter, which was absorbed. He had a hectic fever, a quick, thready pulse, about 90, with excruciating pains, as he described it, of the whole frame. He was very much emaciated, and not able to walk without help. I begun the cure with a grain of opium and one of extract. cicutæ in a pill, which was repeated every six or eight hours, occasionally oftener, until the pains were abated. He had no appetite, nor did he, he assured me, know for some time past what sleep

was.

was. The opium procured ease from pain in less than 24 hours, with some sleep. To the carious bones, acidum mur. on sponge tents was applied, and large poultices of bread and milk over the tents, which were well soaked in acid. muriat. and renewed twice every twenty-four hours.

In June following he was considerably relieved, and the opium was sometimes omitted during the day. In August, the shin bones were exfoliated, and the tumour on the frontal bone totally absorbed. The beginning of September he took bark and steel, with ext. cicutæ, three times a day, which were continued in a mixture till the latter end of October, when he was so much recovered as to rest well with one opium pill every night at bed-time. In November he had gained much strength and flesh, and in December he rested without opium.

January 6, 1809. After being reduced to a mere skeleton, and I may with truth say, almost entered into the vale of death, he perfectly recovered.

May 23, 1810. He remains radically cured, and in perfect health; fat, strong, and robust. I attribute this cure principally to the liberal use of opium.

His wife, and a child about nine months old, were both greatly infected. I cured them by repeated and gentle alteratives. The woman, a few months ago, has been delivered of a seven months child, free from disease. Before her delivery she had been very ill of a dysentery.

I am, &c.

J. E. HARRISON, M. D.

Thornbury, May 23, 1810.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

PERMIT me to avail myself of the opportunity afforded by your Journal, of making a few remarks upon a pamphlet that has lately fallen in my way, entitled "A Treatise explaining the Impossibility of the Disease termed Hydrophobia being caused by the bite of any rabid Animal, by WILLIAM MARYAN, Surgeon."

The title of the pamphlet induced me, though without much expectation of becoming a convert to the Author's opinions, to open its pages with considerable willingness, in hopes of finding something ingenious and new, in support

port of an opinion which some have had the confidence to maintain, notwithstanding the great mass of contrary evidence that stand them in the face, respecting the interesting disease, Hydrophobia. The author's preliminary address still farther stimulated my hopes, where he offers his "Observations to the consideration of Medical Practitioners in particular, and to the Public at large, firmly convinced of their very great importance and utility." He observes too, that Witchcraft, a "*disease*" coeval with Hydrophobia, has, from the increase of learning, been gradually abolished; "and," continues he, "I have no hesitation in declaring it to be my firm belief, that when the disease to which I am now calling the attention of the world, becomes more generally understood, and more fully investigated, it will be found to possess as little foundation as that above alluded to," (the "*disease*" Witchcraft.)

Happy indeed should I have been to have found, in the perusal of this pamphlet, that the author could have proved what he here asserts to be his opinion—that a disease usually considered one of the most horrible that human nature can be afflicted with, and one the least obedient of any to medical skill, is nothing but one of the absurd fantasies of ignorance and barbarism!

Mr. Maryan begins his Treatise by condemning the idea that diseases of animals can be communicated to the human species; and to prove that the introduction of the cow-pox is no contradiction to his opinion, he says that cow-pox is first communicated to the person who dresses a horse with greasy heels, whose hands have the cutis abraded. A little local inflammation is thus produced, "but the *animal economy* does not seem to be more affected by it than by blisters, or any other stimulating application that would excite pain. When the *binary* compound is applied to the teat of the cow, it produces cow-pox; and when this *ternary* compound is conveyed to the human race by inoculation, it secures them from that dreadfully ravaging, and often fatal disease, the small-pox." He continues, "Cows are subject to pustulous sores of their teats, and horses to diseases of their heels; but neither of them, till compounded, are capable of affecting man."

Now, let me examine the depth of Mr. Maryan's reasoning. Unfortunately for his theory, though he does not choose to consider the communication of disease from the horse's heel to the hands of the groom as militating against

gainst him, experiments have been made, proving that the human subject, by being inoculated with grease, has not only had a vesicle resembling cow-pox in every respect, produced upon the arm, but has also been effectually secured from small-pox by its effects on the *constitution.* Mr. Bryce, in his last excellent Treatise on Cow-Pox, mentions, that Dr. Loy, of Aislaby, succeeded in many instances;* also, that Dr. Sacco, of Milan, has done the same.† Doctor De Carro, of Vienna; and Dr. Friese, director of vaccination in Silesia, have both inoculated successfully with grease; and now they "inoculate with equine or with vaccine matter indiscriminately, being perfectly convinced of their identity."‡

Here then we see that experiment has sufficiently proved, that a disease, without having passed through the medium of a *binary* compound, can be *immediately* communicated from an animal to man. Mr. Maryan, however, having asserted the contrary in the last quotation from his work, thus reasons upon it. "As we are not acquainted with any disease (from animals) that, uncompounded, can affect the human species, i. e. solely from the juices of any singly, therefore do I conclude that there can be no possible resemblance between the cow-pox and the bite of a mad dog." Meaning, I presume, that cow-pox is no proof of any morbid animal fluid being communicated immediately from the animal to man; a conclusion which the above experiments completely overturn.

"I never heard (continues he) of a single person, whether coachman, carman, cow-herd, or shepherd, who was *fearful* of becoming affected with any of the diseases of an animal that had died under his care." The fearlessness of these people, allowing it to exist, is no proof of their constitutions being unsusceptible of disease from animals. But as *facts* can generally be opposed to the *opinions* of the author, I beg leave to mention, that Dr. Chisholm has given an account of the Lues Bovina Intertropica, where we are informed, that the animals which died of this complaint, diseased the negroes who handled them. "Touching the flesh in such a manner that part of this sanies adhered to the fingers, produced the same fatal

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* Vide Practical Observations on the Inoculation of Cow-pox, &c. by James Bryce, 2d edition.

† London Medical Journal, vol. x. p. 53.

‡ Ibid. vol. xvi. p. 245.

fatal consequences," (viz. pestilential carbuncle with malignant fever.) *

The author having satisfied his own mind, that no morbid animal poison is communicable to man, proceeds next to mention five or six cases of persons who were bitten by dogs, suffering so much mental agitation, as actually to believe they were affected with hydrophobia, though all their symptoms left them, when their minds were made easy on the subject. He dwells particularly upon the case of a Mr. Castleman, of Camberwell, who having been bitten by a dog apparently mad, was so alarmed as to fancy he had the disease, when none existed. He says, p. 24, "The painful sufferings of Mr. Castleman, which he endured uninterruptedly for three or four years, and his great partiality for dogs and sporting, have induced him to pay great attention to the diseases of the canine species, and in no stage of madness in dogs could he perceive they ever refused water, or had any difficulty in swallowing; he declared it therefore to be his firm opinion, that dogs cannot convey any disease to the human race; he is further strengthened in his opinion, by his having been bitten *twenty* times at least by dogs in the same disease, without its ever producing mental or bodily complaints."

Here then terminates the evidence of facts Mr. Maryan has to produce, to prove that hydrophobia is a disease of only a disordered imagination! Because six or eight cases have fallen under his notice of persons, who having been bitten by dogs supposed to be mad, have by the natural horror often excited in the strongest mind by the dread of this most tremendous disease, imagined themselves affected with the symptoms of it, when they really were not; for this reason, forsooth, *there is no such disease as Hydrophobia!"*

It is true, that many persons bitten by mad dogs, indeed the greatest number, are not affected with any disease, the saliva having been wiped off on the clothing through which the teeth often pass before they reach the flesh; some persons being more unsusceptible of this disease than others, as is the case with many in other complaints; the means made use of to destroy the virus on the bitten part, &c. will sufficiently account for the small proportion of those who have been bitten being ill in consequence.

* Vide Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, No. xxi. p. 28.

But how does Mr. Maryan account for the multitude of instances from every quarter, attested by the most respectable authorities, of persons, who, subsequently to the bite of a rabid dog, have been affected with fever, an insuperable dread of swallowing, from the torture former attempts had occasioned, with agonising spasms, delirium, and death? Do all these symptoms arise from the horror excited by the bite of a dog? But in many instances, the patients have never referred their sufferings to this cause, and have altogether forgot their having received a bite. Dr. Clark of Nottingham, relates the case of a child, *seven years and a half old,* who was bitten, and died in the usual dreadful manner.* I beg leave to ask Mr. Maryan, is it from the effect of *imagination* that *horses* after having been bitten, have been violently affected, and died? That this has occurred is sufficiently known and authenticated.† An instance has come to my own knowledge, for the truth of which I can vouch, of the greater part of a flock of sheep having been bitten, becoming ill, and dying in consequence. And are these hysterical sheep, and hypochondriacal horses, so terrified at the idea of being affected with hydrophobia, as to fancy themselves ill, and to die?

One argument of Mr. Maryan's is, dogs do not always dislike water when mad; indeed, from his own experience, and that of his friend, "Mr. Castleman, who had been a *sportsman for these forty years,* dogs never labour under the disease which is attributed to them, but will take *water* in preference to any thing else, to the last hour of their existence," therefore it is impossible they can communicate a disease, *all* the symptoms of which they do not suffer themselves. Now, granting this assertion to be correct, (which, by the way, it is not, according to the experience of many, though it may be so in the practice of Messrs. Castleman and Maryan), what is there so preposterous in the idea, that a disease communicated from an animal to man, should vary in its train of symptoms in the latter, from what appeared in the former? Do we not see that diseases communicated from one human subject to another, frequently run different courses? The mildest distinct

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* Vide Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, No. xxi. p. 131.

† Vide in London Medical and Physical Journal, vol. xxiii. No. 131, Mr. Surr's account of five horses, which were seized with such severe symptoms in consequence of being bitten, as to die, or to render their being killed necessary.

tinct small-pox in one person, will frequently communicate by infection to another, the most violent and confluent kind. The slightest attack of scarlatina, with little fever, and no affection of the throat, will sometimes appear, when communicated to another, in the form of the most fatal scarlatina anginosa.

When persons bitten by mad dogs are brought to Mr. Maryan, he thus states the practice he adopts. "Whenever I see a person who has been bitten by a mad dog, I inform him it is my belief that no infection can be communicated to him from the dog; but if he should think bathing in the sea, taking the Ormskirk medicine, or any thing that will satisfy his mind; if he can do that, there is no danger, for that the idea of a dog being capable of communicating madness to him, is erroneous; that the disease is only a mental one," &c. Happy would it be for mankind if Mr. Maryan could cure hydrophobia in this way!

To soothe the tortured mind of a person bitten by a mad dog before the disease is come on, by endeavouring to persuade him that he will escape being affected by it, is rational and judicious; but when the symptoms of the disease have appeared, particularly if the patient do not attribute his complaints to the bite, what man in his senses would make use of Mr. Maryan's language!

Upon opening this pamphlet, I fully expected to have found that the author had compared the symptoms of hydrophobia with those of tetanus, and had endeavoured to point out their resemblance in many respects, and that he would have accounted for the hydrophobic symptoms, by supposing them to arise from the effects of the wound alone, and not from any specific virus. Considerable scope for ingenuity is afforded by this view of the subject, and some useful practical remarks might have been deduced from this comparative view of the two diseases; but instead of this, Mr. M. has decided the matter in a simpler manner, by attributing all the symptoms of hydrophobia to hyphochondriasis and melancholia.

It would, Gentlemen, be insulting your readers, were I to aduce any of the numerous cases that have been published in your Journal, or in other books, to show the absurdity of this opinion, or to show that "*exerting our energies*," will no more cure hydrophobia, than it would stop the bleeding of a wounded carotid!

I leave it to your readers, to judge how far Mr. Maryan has *proved* "the impossibility of the disease termed hydro-

 phobia

phobia being caused by the bite of any rabid animal." It is indeed a libel on the word *proof*, to apply it to conclusions drawn from premises so false as Mr. Maryan's are.

It appears to me to be a duty which medical men owe themselves and the public, to prevent the spreading of opinions which are in themselves evidently false, and which may be productive of bad consequences to Society. The circumstance of a book having been written to prove there is no danger in the bite of a mad dog, may be injurious by preventing many from using the proper precaution of confining dogs that appear ill, and of adopting the most approved preventive means, when any one has been bitten.

I am, &c.

CENSOR.

May, 1810.

Observations on Diseases of the Brain, with Cases and Dissections.

By Mr. J. Howship, Surgeon.

A Case in which Mercurial Excitement, instituted for the Removal of Venereal Complaints, was translated from the salivary Glands to the Brain, producing violent Attacks of Convulsion.

(In Continuation.)

J. COYLE, aged 30, private in the 82d regiment of foot, was admitted into hospital, December 1, 1808, with inflammation and œdematous tumour of the prepuce, paraphymosis, and bubo. These complaints were severely painful; the tumefaction of the prepuce was such, as to produce constant uneasiness from its creating a sense of stricture and tightness around the penis, just behind the corona glandis. This state continued much in the same degree for about a week, when the effusion that had taken place in the cellular membrane of the prepuce suddenly increased to an alarming extent. Upon this account the prepuce was divided; a director was introduced within the edge of the preputium, upon the superior part of the penis. Upon the director a strait sharp pointed bistoury being passed up, the point was pushed through the integuments, and the instrument made to cut its way out The divided edges of the wound immediately separated to the extent of an inch, and

and the livid colour which had for some time rendered the safety of the glans penis doubtful, very soon disappeared.

The bubo had been fomented and poulticed for some days, when an opening was made, and a considerable quantity of matter let out.

Between the 1st and 13th of the month he had rubbed in four ounces of the strong mercurial ointment; on the 14th the frictions were suspended; not that the appearances of the disease were in the least degree altered for the better, but on account of the very severe state of excitement that had taken place in the salivary system. By this time the wound upon the prepuce had formed a spreading, painful, and highly inflamed chancrous sore. The opening in the bubo had increased to a very extensive ulcer, retaining its venereal characters.

From the 14th to the 24th, little was done; astringent gargles were frequently used. On the 25th, the swelling of the face and excessive soreness of the mouth were so nearly removed, that he was again ordered to rub in one drachm of the mercurial ointment every night. This treatment was continued up to the 17th of January following, when it became a question whether it would be right to persevere in the frictions, although the appearance of the ulcerations was by no means healthy.

The bubo had produced a very extensive ragged ulceration, the edges of the skin were livid, indurated, and disposed to turn inward upon the sore, while the surface of the ulcer exhibited a mass of forward granulation, without the least disposition to heal. The ulceration behind the glans was still increasing in extent, and at times was very painful.

With this state of the disease, the energies of the system were so much reduced, that the man was scarcely able to rise from his bed. The pulse also was so very weak and low, that it was with difficulty it could be perceived at the wrist.

He was now, therefore, ordered the preparations of bark, the further use of mercury being postponed. Under this treatment the strength and constitutional powers improved daily, and the tonic plan was continued till the seventh of February, when he appeared to be very materially stronger and better in health, although still weakly. The Inspector of hospitals being at this time on his way through the district, he visited the hospital. A consultation was held upon this man's case, the result of which was, that he was again ordered to rub in one drachm of the

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the mercurial ointment every night. The ulcers were still in the most unhealthy state; the irritation in the salivary glands was now so far allayed, that he was enabled to continue the frictions without intermission, from the 7th to the 24th of February. The mouth at this time became again very sore, with an attendant state of high excitement in the system, and the most excessive irritability. The frictions were therefore alternated with opiate and tonic medicines, according to the daily variations in the general health.

On the 28th of February his pulse and strength were reduced to so hazardous a degree of exhaustion, that it was deemed necessary to relinquish the use of mercury altogether, notwithstanding the excessive pain and constant distress he suffered from the still spreading ulcerations.

Upon the 2d of March, he was ordered the compound decoction of sarsaparilla, to be taken frequently as the ordinary drink. This agreed very well, and the following day he said he found himself much better; he felt stronger, had rested better at night, and had more appetite than before. The decoction was continued, and he drank near two pints daily.

March the 6th. He had passed a restless night, from a very sharp, acute, and shooting pain in the ulcer upon the prepuce; upon examination there was no material change in the appearance of the sore. Twenty drops of laudanum were ordered to be given at bed time.

March 7th. He was up, and thought himself better, but towards the evening he lay down, and found himself poorly.

March 8. From having taken cold the preceding day, he had been in the evening attacked suddenly by a most violent pain in the head, during which he rose up from his bed, and sat himself by the fire in his shirt; but of this circumstance he never had the smallest recollection. He had passed a tedious night, and this morning complained of frequent darting pains shooting through his head, although much better than in the night. He had also, frequently, a severe pain extending down his arms to his hands; the pulse was soft and small, not beating more frequently than 80 in the minute.

March 9. The affection of the mouth almost subsided; in other respects much the same. Pain in the head sometimes severe. He took this evening fifteen grains of the compound powder of ipecacuanha.

March 10. He was rather better. The evening powder was repeated.

March

March 11. To day he said that the rolling noise and pain in the head were much relieved, and that he found his general health greatly improved; his appetite was good, and his bowels regular, not disposed to costiveness. From this date to the 21st of the month he seemed to mend, taking every evening ten grains of the compound powder of ipecacuanha.

March 22. The pulse was so weak, soft, and small, that it could scarcely be felt. The diet drink certainly gave tone to the appetite, which was now very good, and added to the general strength; the surface of the ulcer above the glans penis had in the centre assumed a livid, blackish colour, and in a few days threw off a sloughy film. After the separation of the slough, opiates were discontinued; he was then ordered two grains of the extract of bark twice a day, and this tonic appeared to answer very well. He gained strength.

While the penis was exceedingly painful, a few days previous to the formation of the little slough, a poultice of fresh grated carrot was applied one evening, but it aggravated the pain so greatly that the night passed in a state of delirium. The day following a warm poultice of bread and milk was substituted, and this gave immediate relief, and with this he the next night slept soundly without an opiate.

March 28. The health improving slowly; pulse 100; gaining some little substance. The diet drink continued.

March 30. Had so violent a pain in the head that the bark was given up, and a blister applied to the nape of the neck.

April 2. As the pain in the head still continued to return by fits with great severity, and as these complaints had, in this man, been frequently relieved by opiates, ten grains of the compound powder of ipecacuanha were directed to be given in the evening.

April 4. This evening, about seven o'clock, he was suddenly attacked with a most excruciating pain in his head, which very quickly deprived him of his reason, and he recollected nothing of what followed. He was laid upon his bed, and soon afterward fell into a fit. A general state of spasm and convulsive action of the muscular parts of the body and limbs, by which the organs of respiration were especially affected. The chest appeared to be fixed, and the jaws locked closely together. The violence of the attack in the space of half a minute began to abate, and the breath returned.

Of these attacks he had three within the hour. During

the intervals, he was at times sensible, and complained much of a rolling heavy pain passing through his head. His general state was that of low muttering delirium. Upon examination, the pupil was found to retain its sensibility and power of contraction on the application of light. The pulse was exceedingly soft and small; it was quickened to 100 in the minute.

This poor man was already reduced to so low a state, that although his life evidently depended upon something that was to be done immediately for his relief, yet bleeding was quite out of question. Neither did the producing evacuation from the bowels seem to afford much ground for hope. If mild, they would have proved useless; if violently drastic, it was to be expected that they might very probably prove fatal by draining away the little energy that remained in the body.

It was very probable that one cause of the present mischief, if not the principal, was the suppression of the late profuse discharge from the salivary glands. The affection of the mouth had been very severe, and had almost totally subsided at the time the pain in the head was first complained of. From these circumstances it was determined to bring on, as quickly as possible, the same state of excitement in the salivary system, that had lately existed. A large blister was laid between the shoulders. Fifteen grains of the compound powder of ipecacuanha were given; and mercurial ointment was directed to be immediately and assiduously rubbed in about the trunk and extremities, until three ounces were consumed.

April 5. He had suffered during the night from repeated and very severe attacks of convulsion; in one of these the breath was so long in returning, that his recovery was scarcely expected. About half after two in the morning, he had the last fit, previous to which, the whole three ounces of ointment had been fairly rubbed in. At three he seemed to be recovering his recollection. He was rational, and said that he was "much better." As early as four in the morning he called for his handkerchief, and said "my mouth runs already." By ten o'clock he was quite sensible, and always free from the pain in the head, and the noise in the ears. The pulse was low and soft, beating 88. The blister between the shoulders had been in the course of the night torn off. Another was therefore applied to the chest.

As the full effect of the remedy seemed still to be somewhat doubtful, another ounce of the mercurial ointment was

was rubbed in by twelve to day. In the afternoon his mind was wandering, and clear at intervals.

April 6. He had slept well during the night, and in the morning was wandering, but tranquil. Mouth very sore; appetite good; pulse weak and low, 100. The bowels being in a confined state, he was ordered a dose of Castor oil.

April 23. From the 6th instant he had continued to mend progressively; the delirium occasionally returned till the seventh of the month, when it finally disappeared. He daily improved in his health, but particularly in the appearance of the ulcerations. It seemed that the last salivation had, at length, produced the desirable change in the habit, and had conquered the disease. From that time they had ceased to be painful, and very soon were found in a healthy condition.

By the latter end of June, the ulcer on the penis, and that in the groin, were both perfectly healed; and it is fair to conclude, that the disease was radically cured, because no topical applications whatever, except dry lint, had been used, from first to last.

This man, from his long indisposition, was allowed to remain in the hospital for some time after his complaints were cured.

A Case, which proves that now and then, though perhaps rarely, the Medulla Oblongata will bear a considerable degree of pressure, without suffering any material derangement either in its structure or functions.

[With an Engraving.]

A large robust woman, about forty years of age, had been for some years cook in a family. In the winter season she was employed in the kitchen, and while exerting herself to lift a weight, she fell down in a state of insensibility. She was supposed to have been in that condition for some time, when a person, accidentally coming in, found her; she was carried to bed, and continued in the same state for some hours, and then expired. She lay apparently asleep; respiration unattended with any stertorous sound; pulse small, beating about 100. She had not been altogether insensible, for when spoken to she had made several attempts to speak, in which she failed. She once had swallowed a little medicine offered her.

This woman had apparently been in good health for several years before; but latterly had always after dinner been

been very apt to fall asleep. She was of a sedentary habit, and very fond of reading.

Examination.

Upon opening the head, the vessels upon the pia mater were found very turgid, and were very large and numerous. The brain more firm than usual.

The superior parietes of each hemisphere being pared, the right lateral ventricle was carefully opened, and within it was found a serous fluid tinged with blood. The plexus choroides was converted into a tuberculated structure.

The blood had passed through an opening from the left ventricle. A small coagulum was found arrested in its passage through the rupture in the septum lucidum. Within the left lateral ventricle a larger quantity of fluid, and a larger proportion of red blood, were found, than had been observed in the right. There was also a corresponding state of disease in the choroid plexus.

The fluid contents having been allowed to run off, the left corpus striatum appeared very tumid, greatly altered in colour, and of a livid hue; in two points it was lacerated, small coagula of blood were found entangled in these openings.

The striated substance of this part of the brain was now pared away, and beneath it, very near its surface, was found a very large mass of pure coagulated dark blood. The quantity of blood extravasated here was at least equal to four ounces, the whole of which had deposited itself in the medullary substance of the brain; extending of course into the anterior and posterior lobes of the cerebrum on the left side.

The internal carotid arteries were in some parts becoming opake, although they were not found ossified.

The present advanced state of physiological knowledge, has ascertained that the offices and uses of the medulla oblongata and medulla spinalis, are of so essential a nature, that while the superior parts of the brain will endure pressure, from any cause, to a considerable extent, the medulla oblongata, or medulla spinalis, cannot bear the least intrusion upon the space allotted to them, and that any extravasation of blood in these situations, even if only to the extent of a millet seed in bulk, proves fatal. In the progress of this examination, however, it was found that both the vertebral arteries, just above the point where they emerge from their canal in the bone, had undergone a considerable change, they were dilated so that each form-

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ed a little aneurysmal bag, which to the feel was harder and less elastic than the other parts of the canal.

Upon the medulla spinalis these tumours must have pressed, during the period of their growth, which, from the known history of aneurysmal tumors, might have been expected to have produced the symptoms from pressure for some months before. The woman never complained, or felt any deficiency in her state of health, till the accidental rupture of a blood vessel overwhelmed the brain, and terminated her existence.

These aneurysms in miniature were beautifully vascular upon their external surface.

Mill Street, Hanover Square, June 10, 1810.

(To be continued.)

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

YOUR Correspondent, Mr. Hume, is perfectly correct when he observes that there is some " omission in the report" of my case of death by poison; it ought to have been written as it was originally in my Notes, thus " Three grains of the powder with nine grains of kali were boiled, &c." The green colour produced by the second experiment, proves that the alkali was used. It was employed also in the first, in the above-mentioned proportion; and the junction of the two fluids produced a *turbid mixture* or compound of a sky blue colour; which, to the best of my recollection, deposited a precipitate on standing. I very much regret that this most material omission should have made the account so confused. That similar omissions of words, though not equally important, are occasionally made by others, will be evident to Mr. Hume if he will peruse the second paragraph of his own letter. This, however, is no justification of my own carelessness. The above, I conceive to be a sufficient answer to the four first queries. In answer to the fifth, I beg leave to observe, that with respect to the degree of heat to be employed, I do not feel myself competent to give a positive opinion; but a *red heat* during the space of ten minutes has been recommended, in making this experiment, by an eminent physician and chemist, vide Dr. Bostock's observations

vations on detecting arsenic, Edin. Med. and Surg. Journ. April, 1809, where the following objection to the employment of dry charcoal is also to be found.

"When the dry charcoal is employed, the powder is in danger of escaping from between the plates, unless they be very closely pressed together; and when this is the case, a considerable part of it will be found unconsumed after they have been heated."

Every one must agree with Mr. Hume in the propriety of paying attention, in such cases, to what is evacuated from the stomach, when an opportunity is afforded: but, upon this occasion, the patient had not any medical attendant during her illness; and when we were called to inspect the body, two days after her decease, every utensil had been cleansed. The quantity of the white powder, and the facility with which I could obtain it, made me less inquisitive on that head; not having any doubt in my own mind but that I should be able, by analysing it, satisfactorily to prove that it was the cause of her death.

I have not, at present, an opportunity of repeating any of the experiments, nor of performing any of those recommended by your Correspondent. If, however, Mr. Hume is yet of opinion that the experiments were not sufficiently decisive, and imagines that it is possible to detect the arsenic, I will with pleasure give him an opportunity, by sending him, if he wishes it, when I return to Howden, the remaining five grains in my possession, with liberty to use it in any way he thinks most conducive to the promotion of science.

Before I conclude, I beg leave to thank him for the candour he has shewn in making his remarks; and which forms a striking contrast to the flippancy adopted by some of your Correspondents, and which, no doubt, has frequently prevented young practitioners, like myself, from contributing their useful mite when an opportunity presented. I am, &c.

THOMAS JONES.

Hickham, Lancashire, June 13, 1810.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IN page 447, of your last Number, your learned and ingenious Correspondent, Mr. Royston, is mistaken in thinking *his reference*, on the peculiar property of ipecacuanha, the

the first on that subject. In p. 183, of my "VIEW OF THE NERVOUS TEMPERAMENT," when narrating the symptoms, I have introduced the following fact. "The true asthma, is, perhaps, never met with, but in constitutions of great nervous irritability. Such to a certainty must be that species of it, which is induced by particular smells. I knew a lady, who was always seized with asthma, whenever rad. ipecac. was pounding in the shop; so sensible was she of this effect, that it was in vain to conceal from her what was going on in the mortar." (2d Ed.)

This occurred about thirty years ago, in the lady of the physician to whom I was first a pupil; and I was twice the innocent cause of the complaint myself. I thought by her being in a remote part of the house, she could not be affected; but it was almost immediately felt; and the paroxysms lasted many hours. This lady was exquisitely nervous.

I have been informed of different cases almost similar: they were all women; but conceiving the observation to be a common one, I did not note them.

I am, &c.

T. TROTTER, M.D.

Newcastle, June 12, 1810.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

DEVIATIONS from the natural structure in the parts of man, do not lead to any immediate improvements in the practice of medicine, but they greatly tend to enlarge our knowledge of the animal economy, and may in this way be said to contribute to the advancement of the healing art.

The Case in question, which has lately occurred to me in my practice, and which I shall now attempt to describe, is not quite so complete in its kind as I could have wished, although very different in most respects from those numerous preparations I have lately had an opportunity of seeing in the Anatomical Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons.

On Monday, June 11, 1810, about ten in the morning, I was called to attend Mrs. ——, who was in the 7th month

month of her pregnancy. She stated, that in coming down stairs with a large child in her arms, she had a sudden and very considerable discharge of water from the vagina, that she had not perceived any distinct motion of the child for two days. In consequence of the liquor amnii being thus discharged, I thought it right to ascertain, as near as possible the state of the os uteri, and accordingly prevailed on my patient to submit to an examination per vaginam. I observed the os uteri to be somewhat dilated, and very flaccid; the presence of the finger did not cause any uterine contraction whatever. I have attended the patient with four children before, and she was obviously larger in this pregnancy than in the preceding ones. As there was a total absence of pain, I conceived that it could be of no use to stop with her, and I consequently left her, previously giving directions to her nurse, to send for me as soon as her pains put on an appearance of regularity. Between seven and eight in the evening my attendance was again requested; the pains had now become frequent and regular, and on examination, the os uteri was considerably dilated, with a protrusion of portion of membrane, in a bag-like form; in a short time afterwards this membranous bag gave way, and another considerable quantity of water was evacuated; after this second discharge, the arm presented itself, and came down into the vagina, which appeared to me necessary to return; this I accomplished during the absence of the pains, and by bringing down at the same time the breech of the child, it was shortly expelled (in this position) into the world.

After its expulsion, on seeking for the funis, I could not find any regular appearance of cord; but in the place of its insertion into the abdominal parietes, there was a membranous bag, which in the birth of the child had been ruptured, that enveloped and enclosed all the viscera of the abdomen; on passing my finger to examine for the placenta, that mass was found detached, and of course it was soon brought away.

On a more accurate examination of this monstrosity, it was found that there was no muscular covering to the abdominal viscera, a total want of the common parietes, and in their place there was a membranous expansion, which appeared to be a continuation of peritonæum. This membranous expansion was adherent to the inner surface of the general membranes, surrounding the waters and child, yet formed a separate and complete cavity, in which were the stomach, liver, intestinal canal, spleen, and other viscera; the

the funis was unusually short (in length about four inches), it run from the placenta, in the duplicature of the external membrane, to the liver, without forming at its entrance into the abdomen, any appearance of navel; the placenta was larger than common, but the funis much smaller; there was no appearance whatever of the external parts of generation in the usual place, but where the umbilicus is situated, there was a fissure, and in this was an appearance not unlike the labia externa separated, at the upper part of which was a small orifice, which proved to be the termination of the small intestines, opening into a smooth surface, where the caput coli is usually situated; in the centre was a rugous corrugated kind of membrane, which was considered by an eminent anatomist,* to bear a great similarity to the appearance of the inside of the bladder, with its anterior surface removed, as is occasionally observed in those monstrosities termed hermaphrodites. Internally, but not within the cavity of the pelvis, was the uterus, with its appendages, but there was no vagina or external opening from it; there was a considerable curvature of the spine, with the body bent towards the left side, and the femur on that side was much misplaced, in consequence of which, the left leg and thigh were turned upward and outward, and the left hip considerably higher than the right, so that at first sight there was a very great malformation of the pelvis; the chest, head, arms, and legs, were as perfectly formed to external appearance as those of a fœtus of seven months usully are.

I have the pleasure to say, the patient did well; but such was the prejudice of the family, that no intreaty or persuasion, on my part, could induce them to allow that strict examination of this important and interesting subject so necessary for public investigation.

I am, &c.

JOHN WILKES HILL, Surgeon.

Trinity Square, June 22, 1810.

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* Mr. T. Blizzard.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS
OF THE
RECENT PUBLICATIONS
IN THE
DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF PHYSIC, SURGERY, AND MEDICAL PHILOSOPHY.

Thomæ Simsoni, Medicinæ Professoris Candossensis, in Academia Andreana, apud Scotos, de re Medica, Dissertationes quatuor. In usum Medicinæ et Humanitatis Studiosorum iterum excudi curabat Andreas Duncan, Senior, M. D. & P. Principis Scotiæ Medicus Primarius. His adnectuntur, de Asthmate Infantum Spasmodico, Dissertatio, auctore Jacobo Simson. De Alvi Purgantium Natura et Usu Dissertatio; et de laudibus Gulielmi Harvei, Oratio, auctore Andrea Duncan. Edinburgi, 1809. 8vo. pp. 327.

Four Dissertations on Medical Subjects by THOMAS SIMSON, Chandos Professor of Medicine in the University of St. Andrew's. Reprinted by Dr. DUNCAN, for the Use of the Students at Edinburgh; to which are subjoined, a Dissertation on the Croup, by JAMES SIMSON; a Dissertation on the Nature and Use of Purgatives, and a Harveian Oration by A. DUNCAN.

PROFESSOR SIMSON, in his Preface, observes, that notwithstanding all the experience to be derived from books, all the great discoveries and improvements in anatomy, chemistry, and materia medica; enough still remains unknown in the practice of medicine, for the exercise of every one's industry and ingenuity. Many defects require to be supplied, many erroneous notions remain to be corrected, and no small quantity of rubbish to be cleared away. "I propose to myself, says he, first to inquire, with some care, what kind of remedies are commonly employed in the cure of certain diseases, and for what reasons: then, by way of specimen, to subjoin an examination of that disease, than which, none afflicts the inhabitants of this kingdom more frequently or more seriously, and which, from its exciting cause, has obtained the name of *cold*. This disease, if I am not mistaken, I have shewn not to arise from any corrupt or morbid state of the *fluids*, as is commonly believed; and at the same time, that the cure of it is not to be sought for in *incidents*, as some say, or in *dissolvents* or *deobstruents*, or any such specifics, as others believe; and that the employment of such remedies, in other diseases, has no foundation in reason, though the practice is so general." As the classing of medicines under general heads, like all other classification, is principally intended to abridge the language or the acquisition of science; and as these classes were probably at first formed to suit the different medical theories

theories which happened to prevail at the time, so when the theories fell into contempt or neglect, the classes built upon them naturally participated in their fate. The language, however, of valuable original authors on the practice of medicine, would remain unchanged in their works, and consequently the terms founded upon the prevailing theory at the time they wrote. Thus in every fluctuating science, as medicine or chemistry, many terms will continue in a certain degree of use, long after the public in general have ceased to attempt a defence of their propriety. Such appear to be the terms objected to by Professor S.

The first of these Dissertations is entitled, "An inaugural discourse on the errors of both the ancients and the moderns respecting the *materia medica.*" He sets out with laying down his two principal propositions or axioms. 1. "A practitioner, *as such*, cares for nothing but the effect of a medicine upon the living human body in various states of disease." 2. "An accurate possession of this knowledge is very difficult to be obtained."

By the first he means, that the origin of the metalic or vegetable substance, its natural history, its colour or chemical properties, its manipulation or preparation, are nothing to him as a *clinical* practitioner.

By the second, he wishes to impress upon his hearers, the great difficulty of acquiring a correct knowledge of the powers of medicines administered internally; and the general fallacy of medical logic.

He next proceeds to establish a third dogma, for, perhaps, this will not be received as an axiom by many of our readers; "that nothing ought to be admitted as a medical experiment, the whole and singular of the conditions of which are not clearly laid down; so that when occasion may require it, any apothecaries' apprentice might repeat it with the same confidence as a natural philosopher, properly educated, can repeat any one of Sir Isaac Newton's experiments on light and colours. For, (he adds) medical practice ought to be put out of the reach of conjecture; nor, unless in desperate cases, ought any *anceps remedium* ever to be tried."

This extraordinary opinion, if universally adopted, we think would put an end to all improvement in the practice of physic; for every *new* remedy is necessarily an *anceps* remedium. A little farther on, (§ 12,) he appears to us to invalidate his own dogma, for he says, very properly in our opinion, "All the world will readily confess, that the first origin of *any materia medica*, as well as that of the whole science of medicine, is enveloped in the greatest obscurity;" for the human mind could never have had any clue to guide it into a comparison of disease with natural productions, as the means of counteracting its fatal tendency. Hence it must follow, that the first hint of the utility of any new remedy must have been derived from accident, or from the analogy of other similar means of cure: in either case, the new remedy must long have continued an anceps remedium.

Our author, in § 16, and the following ones, enlarges on the vague notions entertained even by Hiprocates, respecting the virtues of medicines; and then downwards through Aretæus, Galen, the Arabian physicians, Holerius, Duretus, Jacotius, Plater, Riverius, Etmuller, and Sir John Floyer, who says we may distinguish the virtues of medicines by our senses.

On the discovery of the circulation of the blood, the mathematical physicians conceived that the materia medica might and ought to be founded on mechanical principles. Momentum, fluidity, density, cohesion, &c. became favourite objects of research and calculation. Friend mixed blood drawn from a vein with various substances, in order to ascertain the effect of such substances upon the blood in the human body. Professor S. exposes the futility of such experiments by arguments which no one at this time of day will be disposed to controvert. After this general sketch of the history of the materia medica and the sources from which it has flowed, he proceeds to examine it as it now stands in our systematic writers, who have treated expressly on the subject. He blames them all for omitting to give the means they used, to prove that the medicines do really possess the virtues implied by the title of the class under which they are arranged. We do not see the justice of this censure, for a large portion of all human knowledge, which does not admit of demonstration, must be founded on the mere authority of others.

As a specimen of his manner of treating these obsolete classes, we will translate his remarks on *cephalics*. " It is manifest, from the titles of the principal heads or classes under which medicines are commonly reduced, as cephalics, hysterics, hepatics, &c. without any history of the disease in which they are to be employed, that such an arrangement can answer no practical purpose. For who, from these naked titles, can determine the virtues of any medicine? In our examination of these classes, we shall readily grant what they assume, who have laboured most diligently in explaining them, and admit that by cephalics is merely to be understood, those remedies which directly refer to the brain, and which relieve disorders of the animal spirits. Let this then be the sense in which the term cephalic remedy, no matter which of them, is used; but to which, or what sort of disease of the head, is any one who reads it, to suppose it ought to be applied? Will he have no difficulty or hesitation among so many diseases of the brain, such as lethargy, apoplexy, catalepsy, paralysis, epilepsy, tremor, phrenitis, mania, and many others comprehended under the same title? Let him then, if he pleases, go to the nosologists, and learn how many different species there are of each genus, depending on different causes: and how often, almost the same affections are produced by *compression* only; whether that compression depends on inflammation, or extravasated fluid, or *plethora*, unaccompanied by obstruction: and he will easily discover how absurd it must be, in cases so various, to rely on any one *catholicon*. But there are besides,

besides, many other affections of the brain, arising from poison, for instance, or opiates, (the nature of whose operation we know very little about,) in relieving which, these famous cephalics would not be worth a straw; while a draught of warm water given in time is often of the greatest utility, if repeated vomiting is produced, (as Wepfer abundantly proves in his elaborate work on water hemlock,) although the warm water does not contain a grain of any aromatic, either of odour or flavour, which all our common cephalics abound in. I do not deny that the cephalics already mentioned, may often in the more simple cases, recruit the languid powers of the body; but a prudent practitioner will not draw an argument from the effects of medicines in simple and trivial cases, to more complicated and serious ones."

But to these epithets of medicaments just related, they add others of a different kind, which because they possess more manifest and certain effects, and are placed under more appropriate titles, you may say ought to be retained: such are calefacients, soporifics, dissolvents, incrassants, purgatives, diuretics, &c. since there are diseases in which calefacients are necessary, others where soporifics, dissolvents, purgatives, &c. are of great benefit. But although these are liable to fewer objections, yet there is no small degree of uncertainty attached to them, since it is obvious that medicines of very different powers are comprehended under the same title, and that some of them are better suited to particular states of disease than others; so that the right use of any of them must depend entirely on an accurate knowledge of the history of the disease."

Near the end of this dissertation, he makes some very proper observations on the absurdity of jumbling a great number of simple remedies together in the same prescription, and thinks, Quo simplicius eo melius. This ground, however, has been so often gone over before, that nothing new can be expected.

The discourse concludes with a panegyric on their noble patron the Duke of Chandos.

The second Dissertation is on the natural method of curing diseases employed by the ancients before the discovery of the circulation of the blood by Harvey. Having in his first dissertation demonstrated, what he considers as the miserable state in which the materia medica was in his time; in this second, he proposes a plan for improving it. "I shall endeavour, says he, to demonstrate that great improvement may be made in the cure of diseases, if we begin with a correct knowledge of the use of remedies: but that this knowledge can only proceed from a correct and accurate knowledge of the history of diseases; for from a complete history of a disease there naturally arise certain indications of cure, by means of which we are led to remedies suitable for that purpose." "I am, continues he, the more confident in this opinion, because I observe the great founder of our science to entertain the same sentiments; a physician, he says, is sufficiently prepared to cure it

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who knows the disease sufficiently: and Sydenham also, the great modern cultivator of simplicity in practice, says, 'I have often thought that if I had a clear knowledge of the history of any disease, I could always find a suitable remedy.' But not designing to accumulate great authorities only, I shall endeavour to give such an explanation of this simple plan of practice, that any one may be able to judge of it for himself." He then states the first steps which were taken to bring medicine into the form of a science, and these were merely observing and noting down the various symptoms that occurred in different stages of the same disease, and in persons of different ages or constitutions. This practice continued long before any attempt was made to adopt specific remedies, either to symptoms or diseases, unless, perhaps, cold water for thirst or febrile heat. He thinks this diligent and patient observation of symptoms, without interfering with Nature's operations, was the parent of those general conclusions respecting the event of certain signs and symptoms, called aphorisms. Before the discovery of Harvey, he thinks it would have been impossible to frame any rational theory for the practice of medicine, and that therefore the best rule was to rely on the simple palliatives or remedies which accident had discovered; that a knowledge of the history and obvious causes of any disease, together with the state of the functions at the time, were always sufficient to enable the physician to regulate the diet of the patient, which long continued to be the principal materia medica. Nature would very early point out several purgatives, astringents, sternutatories, and emetics, both in the vegetable and mineral kingdom; which, with baths, fomentations, and frictions, in conjunction with diet, would form no inconsiderable *apparatus medicaminum*.

Furnished with these instruments, and ever intent on the progress of symptoms in each disease, such aphorisms as the following would soon suggest themselves to a discerning practitioner.

1. An attack of sneezing cures the hiccup.

2. The dropsy is cured by a determination of the water to the bowels or kidnies, so is leucophlegmasia.

3. A troublesome diarrhœa is cured by a spontaneous vomiting.

Many such would be collected and treasured up to form a practical system of medicine; and such really was the system of the ancients, before anatomy or chemistry could have contributed much towards its perfection.

After this view of the simple system of the ancients, he proceeds to establish his second proposition, viz. "Diseases cannot be rationally cured by any medicines, or any auxiliary means which are not made subservient to certain indications, and directed to the fulfilment of them; any other attempt is only rash empiricism."

This proposition, which probably few will be disposed to controvert, in his sense of it, he supports by arguments of his own, and the authorities of Celsus, Pitcairn, Boyle, and Sydenham. There are, however, some diseases in which the remedies already known

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are of no avail, such as hydrophobia; and surely no one would contend that we ought to remain satisfied, without attempting to discover others that are more efficacious; or else some more successful manner of employing those we have; and this we think can only be done by trials, or empiricism directed by analogy. We cannot, therefore, agree with him in the opinion that medicine may, and ought always to be cultivated precisely in the same manner as astronomy, that is, by means of observations alone. He says that Sydenham always conformed to this rule, and by so doing, advanced far beyond all his predecessors and contemporaries.

He concludes, that all rational practice ought to arise from indications, presented by an attentive study of the history and symptoms of the disease, and never to be directed by any supposed theory concerning its nature or causes. That theory, usurping the place of observation, gave birth to those absurd classes of remedies, such as acids, alcalines, solvents, incrassants, &c.

The third Dissertation is entitled an inquiry into the importance of the humours of the body, in a medical view, and how far they may be deteriorated by cold.

After an introduction of considerable length, in which he states the impossibility of explaining the secretions of the different fluids of the body, on the principles of chemistry, hydraulics, or hydrostatics; he lays it down as a medical fact, founded on observation, and which he denominates very properly, as we think, "*res observatu dignissima.*" "That no defective action *ever* takes place in the *solids* of the body, which is not attended with a corresponding deterioration of the circulating and secreted fluids; and that as soon as the due action of the solids is restored, the defects in the fluids begin to disappear."

Hence, he infers, we may understand why the healthy and vigorous action of the solids in the hardy rustic, produce from meagre cheese, salted and dried beef or bacon, better juices than the pampered Peer can from *living* milk and animal food, that has scarcely lost the vital principle. Having established this dependence of the sanity of the fluids on the due action of the solids, he proceeds to inquire into the effects of cold upon the condition of the humours of the body; respecting which, so many difficulties and disputes have so long agitated the professors of medicine.

Sanctorius appeared to have solved the problem by his important discovery and demonstration of the insensible perspiration, which being much impeded, or totally obstructed by cold, must deteriorate the humours, by retaining effete or pernicious portions of them within the body, which ought to be carried off by that outlet.

This highly popular theory was first assailed by our countryman Dr. Keil, who contended on the other hand, "That some noxious principles were introduced into the system by the exposure to cold, which coagulated the fluids, and produced those aggravated symptoms which Sanctorius ascribed to the retention of excrementitious fluids.

Our author decidedly prefers the theory of Dr. Keil, which, he says, corresponds with the ancients, and blames Sanctorius for rejecting it. He, however, rejects both, and proposes the following one of his own. "Nature has established so just and nice a balance between the circulating powers of the heart and arteries, and that of the returning veins and secreting organs, that no impediment can take place in any of the latter, without great and manifest derangement in the former." For the demonstration of this fundamental proposition, he refers to Theophilus Benedictus, and the injections of Ruysch, which, he says, sufficiently prove, "that any extraordinary power pressing upon, or urging the extremities of the circulating vessels, must necessarily produce great *extravasations* of fluids in every part of the body." Here we see that this enemy of theoretical speculations, is indulging in one as wild, and apparently as ill-founded, as any of those that he so severely condemns.

Taking his theory for granted, and the well-known properties of cold in condensing all fluids, especially the animal fluids; he says, all the symptoms arising from cold, will admit of a very easy explanation. For the most remarkable effects of cold, are catarrhs and glandular tumours, in which the secreting vessels are impeded in their action by the debilitating powers of this pernicious agent, while the blood retiring from the surface, is thrown with greater force on the internal parts. The illustration and confirmation of this theory is as wild as the theory itself. The whole rests upon lentor, elasticity, and those applications of mechanics, hydraulics and hydrostatics, which became so fashionable for some time after the discovery of the circulation. Defluxions from the head and bronchiæ are made to depend much more on the moisture combined with the cold, than on the cold itself, and appeals to our feelings in confirmation of the opinion.

His plan of cure in diseases proceeding from cold, is precisely the same as that of all rational practitioners, whatever their theory may have been, or in whatever times they may have lived. He employs blood-letting, general or topical; laxatives, low and diluent diet; and the most effectual means of restoring a free circulation in the obstructed vessels on or near the surface, by warmth, friction, fomentations, blisters, &c. He does not omit, however, to guard us against the danger of pushing any of these so far as to induce inordinate debility in the patient.

After these means have been employed, if a rheumatism should assume the chronic character, he advises chalybeates and other *tonics*. In local inflammations proceeding from cold, he thinks local remedies will be sufficient.

The fourth Dissertation, is a continuation of the preceding. In this the professor combats the humoral pathology, which makes diseases to depend upon, and arise from, a depraved state of the fluids, instead of the imperfect action of the solids.

The opinion of the professor is now so universally received, that

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we do not think it necessary to do more than point out the foundations of his several arguments in support of the muscular and nervous pathology, in opposition to the humoral. This subject, indeed, has been so ably discussed by Hoffman, Cullen, Brown, Beddoes, and Darwin, that we need only to refer to their works. He grounds his arguments, in the first place, on *sympathy*, which cannot be supposed to depend on the fluids. The instances of sympathy, which he principally lays a stress on, are those arising from an irregular or defective action of the uterus, in chlorosis, and emansio mensium; increased action of the uterus and its vessels in pregnancy and menorrhagia, which are known to affect the functions of the stomach, the action of the heart, and the secreting glands of the whole body.

Hysteria is with reason much dwelt on, as this can have nothing to do with the humoral pathology, and must be referred to the mind or sympathy.

The stomach and heart are liable to be affected by passions of the mind so violently, as to have their actions suspended or inverted; and the former is often sympathetically affected by the diseases of the kidnies, ureters, bladder, or urethra. Spasmodic diseases, as may be expected, are not overlooked, of which no one suspects any derangement of the fluids to be the cause.

The liver and its secretion are laid much stress on by the supporters of the humoral pathology; Dr. Simpson, therefore, enters into this subject at considerable length, and explains the derangements supposed to depend on the vitiated state of the bile, to arise from its quantity, or the obstructions to its excretion; that diarrhœa, or the opposite state of the bowels, depends on muscular and nervous action, not on the quality of the fluids; and concludes his dissertation, by referring the effects of emetics, purgatives, and poisons, to their stimulant action on the solids, not to any change they can possibly produce in the fluids in their primary operation.

The Thesis on Croup, by Dr. James Simpson, printed in 1761, contains nothing interesting to practitioners at present; and the same may be said of the Thesis on the nature and use of purgatives.

Such are the contents of these Latin Essays, written long ago, which Dr. Duncan has judged it proper to re-publish in 1809. Whether they are re-published on account of the matter they contain, or as a model of style for the imitation of the students, for whose use it is now printed, we leave to those who may read them to determine.

A Practical Essay on Cancer; being the Substance of Observations to which the Annual Prize for 1808 *was adjudged by the Royal College of Surgeons of London.* By CHRISTOPHER TURNER JOHNSON, Surgeon, Exeter; Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of London, and of the Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh. 8vo. pp. 126. London, 1810.

THAT Cancer has long been esteemed one of the opprobria medicorum must be admitted, and every attempt to investigate its history and to improve its treatment, deserves encouragement; it is upon these grounds, therefore, we presume, the Royal College of Surgeons have bestowed their annual medal for this performance. How far the author has been successful in effecting either one or the other of these objects, or whether he has, in the least degree, added to our previous knowledge of the subject, it is our duty to ascertain, taking it for granted that nothing superior to the present Essay was offered to the notice of the Royal College on this occasion.

"The term Cancer," the author informs us, in the first paragraph of his book, is employed "to denote a particular connected train or series of morbid phenomena, occurring in the human body." We can inform the author, that the terms gout, small-pox, fever, and the name of every disease incident to the human body, are so employed; but surely it becomes necessary to enumerate, at least, *some* of the phenomena occurring in this particular train, to constitute the definition of any one disease; and yet, that the author means this paragraph to stand for a definition, we conclude, because we can find *no other*. In appropriating terms, indeed to the various stages of the disease (whatever it be) he is treating of, he thinks it requisite to ascertain the extent of signification in which they should be applied to the different stages respectively, and which he does as follow:

"The words schirrhus, carcinoma, and cancer, have been variously employed, in extent of signification, by almost every different writer; and from this circumstance, it becomes necessary to explain the meaning which is intended to be attached to them in the subsequent parts of this Essay. Cancer, as a general term, will be used to express every gradation in the disease, from its commencement to its termination; but, as it may sometimes be desirable to speak in a more limited sense, I shall, for this purpose, and in compliance with custom, distinguish two principal stages of the disease:—the *scirrhous* and *carcinomatous*."

Here the word cancer being used as a general term to express every gradation in *the disease*, remains equally undefined as to what particular train of phenomena it is applied, and we are equally in the dark as to the precise disease the author means to treat of. We were the more surprised at this want of precision in the author, because he observes, "Under the title of cancer, it has been but too frequent a practice, to associate together an almost indefinite number of morbid alterations of structure, without previously

viously inquiring whether they possessed any such settled agreement of character, as would, with strict propriety, allow of individual cases of disease being included under a general definition. This has most unquestionably been one very fertile source of error; and, while speaking of it, I may, therefore, advert to the necessity which there exists in every philosophical investigation, of setting out with a clear and distinct conception of the particular object of research; for, in what case, let it be asked, ought this mode of reasoning to be more forcibly insisted on, than where our enquiries relate to the nature and cure of disease? These, it deserves well to be recollected, are matters which involve considerations of much more than speculative importance."

To conduct a philosophical investigation to any useful purpose, requires a closeness of reasoning, and an accuracy of expression which our author has not displayed in this Essay; and the obstacles which, in the following quotation, he laments as impeding the progress of our knowledge, he has by no means contributed to remove.

"The promiscuous and *unguarded* use of the term cancer, has tended more, perhaps, than any other single cause to retard the progress of our knowledge concerning those affections which really deserve the appellation. No one ever pretended that we should be warranted in applying the same epithet, indiscriminately, to every different case of disease, merely on account of its proving untractable: and yet, with respect to the subject of the present inquiry, this very thing seems to have been done, without the least scruple or hesitation. It is sufficiently obvious, however, that in order to constitute the identity of any two cases of disease, something more must be required than such vague and very distant features of resemblance."

Were we inclined to cavil, we might observe, that the circumstance of a disease proving generally untractable, is sufficient to justify us in bestowing, "without the least scruple or hesitation," a pretty harsh *epithet* upon it; but no epithet can amount to a definition of a disease, it does not even constitute its name, being never more than an adjunct to distinguish some good or bad quality belonging to it; we agree with the author that no features of *resemblance* can constitute the identity of any *two* cases.

"The author's aim, is to collect and concentrate into one point of view, all the valuable information that is to be found scattered throughout the works of preceding writers on Cancer;" but he informs us, that "there are yet, comparatively, but few cases of cancer upon record, which have not lost more or less of their sterling value by want of due attention to some of the particulars which have been here mentioned." To whom this want of due attention, whereby these cases have *lost* their sterling value, is to be attributed, we do not discern; we ourselves should rather have judged these cases to have been *originally deficient* in sterling value, from this cause; but we submit to our author, who thinks otherwise,

wise, for that he has correctly expressed himself we cannot doubt, since in the very next paragraph he says, "it is by giving precision to our language, and *by this alone*, that we can ever hope to obviate those frivolous and unmeaning disputes, which turning upon the different interpretation of *particular words* and phrases, infest medical science, in common with almost every other branch of useful knowledge." We have before observed, how desirable it is, that in every case, correct definitions should be given of the diseases on which authors mean to treat; we presume Mr. J. means to express the same opinion in the following paragraph, although, we confess, we do not clearly understand what is meant by establishing a *more intimate connexion* between the *word* cancer, and the particular phenomena of which it *should be* expressive.

"An attempt is still worth making to establish a more intimate connexion than has hitherto subsisted, between the word cancer and the particular phenomena of which it should be expressive. This would require that its precise extent of signification should be clearly and accurately defined: which, though it might have the effect of excluding from the catalogue many diseases vulgarly called cancerous, must yet be a principal means of promoting careful and accurate observation. In prosecution of this plan, it is likely that we should in time become better qualified to mark the nicer distinctions, and shades of difference, which separate this complaint from every other."

We have dwelt thus long upon this part of our author's book, because we considered it our duty, particularly, to examine a publication ushered into the world under the auspices of the Royal College, in order to ascertain what claims the author had upon the attention of the public, independent of collegiate sanction. The intrinsic merits of the work do not consist in a superior philosophical arrangement of the various parts of the subject, nor in a more luminous view of the facts already known; but as the result even of individual experience is always valuable, when related in language correct enough to be easily understood, we shall proceed to detail the substance of our author's information on the subject before us.

The chapter on the History of Cancer is divided into several sections, detailing, respectively, the progress of the symptoms in the various parts of the body which may be affected with the disease, as the breast, the uterus, the testicle, &c. In the term Cancer, the author includes two stages, the schirrhus and carcinomatous; scirrhus, however, may subsist independent of any cancerous affection, either local or constitutional, nor do we think that the author has used the term cancer in the general acceptation, since all nosologists have arranged scirrhus and cancer as two separate affections, the former of which may exist in glandular parts as an effect of simple inflammation; but admitting that scirrhus may also be the consequence of cancerous affection, how is it to be distinguished from what may be called simple scirrhus, or

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what the author calls "the enlargement of the glands from simple irritation." Speaking of *cancer* of the testicle, the Author says, "the disease *begins* here as in all other glandular organs, by a partial induration." Now as partial induration may, we conceive, arise in an organ independent of cancerous affection, how shall we distinguish when it is, or is not, cancer? Here, we think, the author has failed in giving us any diagnostic signs whatever; the same thing may be said of "that enlargement which is so frequently seen to arise in scrofulous constitutions."

"In every case of this kind, in which there may be a doubt, it will at any rate be proper to examine the state of the lymphatic glands in other parts of the body; and more particularly in the neck and axilla of the opposite side. The information which may, in this way, be obtained, taken in combination with the general history and appearance of the patient, will materially assist us in ascertaining the nature of the case. The peculiar kind of shooting pain, which is generally attendant on scirrhous structure, may also serve to facilitate the distinction.

"It has been said, that such of the lymphatic glands as are situated in the immediate vicinity of the diseased part, may undergo a degree of enlaregment from simple irritation. This, however, never seems to happen except where some accidental inflammation is present in the early stages of a scirrhus: besides which, it further admits of being distinguished, by yielding to those means which are calculated to lessen and subdue inflammation in ordinary cases."

To found any diagnosis upon the *effect* of treatment is unphilosophical, to denominate that cancer which is untractable, and to infer a similar appearance not to be so, because it gives way to certain means, is not sound reasoning; and yet, that the author depends for his diagnosis rather upon the *event*, than the actual state of such affections appears probable, when he says, "External disease, appearing under the form of either tumour or sore, will sometimes, from accidental causes, assume an appearance of malignancy which it does not in reality possess: and, viewed in this state, there is reason to believe that various other morbid affections have at different times been mistaken for cancer, and treated accordingly."

How we are to distinguish the actual degree of malignancy but by the external appearances, we are at a loss to tell; the author says, "in proportion to the rapidity of the progress of any individual case, so is its degree of malignancy." This we conceive to be a fallacious criterion, for accidental circumstances may accelerate or retard the progress of cancer, without at all affecting its malignancy, so far as is distinguishable by any symptom; and to assume rapidity of progress as a criterion, is, at least, begging the question. The history of cancer of the breast, of the uterus, and of the testicle, affords nothing very new, as the progress of the disease in each of these parts is well known.

The following description of Cutaneous Cancer, and the marks of distinction between it and Lupus, as described by Dr. Willan, deserve attention.

"Cutaneous cancer, at its commencement, usually appears under the form of a small præternatural enlargement, or elevation of the skin. In feeling and consistence it is sometimes so hard as to approach to the nature of horn; while, on other occasions, it will bear a much nearer resemblance to a common wart. There are, besides these, some few instances, in which it would look to be no more than a little discoloured pimple.

"Whatever form the disease may at first assume, there will invariably be found to take place, a degree of surrounding hardness seldom or ever to be met with, under other circumstances. Some degree of shooting pain is likewise, from time to time, experienced in the part. In many of these cases, ulceration seems to be materially accelerated by the accidental irritation of the patient's fingers, which are very often, though unconsciously, employed in the vicinity of the disease. Sometimes, however, a sort of scale is generated, so as to form a compleat covering of defence to the little tumour, and this will be artificially removed, and again renewed several times in succession, before ulceration is fairly established. This phænomenon is seen most remarkably in that affection of the scrotum peculiar to chimney sweepers.

"When the part has once arrived at a state of ulceration, it soon puts on those characters of malignancy, which have occasioned it to be classed as a species of cancer. The surface of the sore possesses, indeed, the common appearances of carcinomatous ulceration: and there is also a discharge from it, of sanious, or otherwise ill-conditioned, matter."

"The particular situations which cutaneous cancer is most frequently observed to occupy, are the lower lip, the angles of the eyes, and the alæ nasi; but some of these parts are also liable to another affection, which, though, in its nature, very widely remote from cancer, still bears a good deal of resemblance to it, in appearance. What I here allude to is a disease which has been described by Dr. Willan, under the generic name of Lupus. It begins under the form of numerous small brown pustules, which soon go on to a state of ulceration. The parts upon which it commonly first seizes, are the forehead, the eyebrows, alæ nasi, and upper lip. When this disease is situated in the nose, it is not the soft parts alone that suffer from its destructive effects; these will, in the course of time, be extended so as to affect both the cartilages and turbinated or spongy bones.

"The ulcer of the soft parts extends slowly, having a dusky, copper-coloured disk, and attended likewise by a good deal of surrounding hardness.

"This disease may generally be distinguished from cancer by a careful attention to the following circumstances. Lupus is chiefly seen to occur in young people; while, on the contrary, the cutaneous cancer is scarcely ever observed, except in those who are considerably advanced in life. Cancer, again, hardly ever attacks the upper lip, though it is perhaps one of the most frequent seats

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of lupus. The pain too, in cases of lupus, is never very violent, or acute; and indeed the disease itself generally admits of being cured in no very great length of time, by means of mild external applications."

"The organ of vision is another important part, which is subject to a disease that has received the appellation of cancer." This implies a doubt in the author's mind, whether the disease, the symptoms of which are very briefly described, is really cancer; it differs, he says, from almost every other cancerous affection, in being generally a disease of early life. Several writers have noticed this disease, and Mr. Wardrop has lately given us some excellent observations upon it, under the name of Fungus hæmatodes; it is also sometimes called soft cancer. It certainly differs essentially from cancer, and should not have been included under that title.

After a chapter on scirrhous structure, in which is nothing very important or new, as it contains little more than Mr. Home's description of the appearances on dissection of cancerous scirrhus, we come to the author's "Theory of Cancer, on which we shall offer a few remarks.

The author declines entering into a formal discussion, respecting the nature and causes of cancer; the principal inquiry to which he wishes to restrict himself is, "how far is cancer, at any time, or under any circumstances, to be regarded as a local or as a constitutional disease? As far as we can understand him, cancer may be considered as a local disease, arising from constitutional predisposition; this predisposition he illustrates by the analogy of two well-known diseases, gout and scrofula; "these may, without any great impropriety of language, be called constitutional diseases; and yet, for the most part, there is reason to consider their effects as being at first of a local nature."

On the subject of predisposition, we shall quote the author's own words: "Predisposition to disease may be of two kinds; either hereditary, or acquired. In using the term acquired predisposition, I only mean to express a simple matter of fact, viz. that what are called hereditary diseases may suddenly appear in a family where, after the most careful research, no traces whatever of their previous existence can be discovered. Now, in this case, we must either allow that a predisposition is first acquired, or that the accidental causes have been applied so powerfully as to excite the disease in a constitution otherwise sound. Supposing, however, that the disease be at first excited in this casual manner; yet the person who is the subject of it, will afterwards be as fully capable of transmitting the predisposition to his descendants, as one who shall have inherited it from a long train of ancestors."

This appears to us very questionable; that a strictly local disease, produced by accidental external violence, as by a blow on the breast, in "a constitution otherwise sound," should confer a power on the individual to transmit to his descendants an heredi-

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tary predisposition to the same disease, is an hypothesis neither supported by facts, nor warranted by analogy; it is also contradictory to what the author had before advanced in his attempt to prove, that cancer is not a mere local disease, from its sometimes attacking different parts of the body at the same time.

"It cannot be urged, in opposition to this, that such parts may have been equally exposed to be affected by external or accidental causes; because these same causes, admitting their agency, would at most, in *other constitutions*, only have given rise to *simple inflammation, and its consequences*."

If simple inflammation and its consequences only, can be produced from external accidental causes, in other constitutions, how can the hereditary cancerous predisposition ever be *acquired* from the most violent application of these causes?

Among the predisposing causes of cancer, the author enumerates climate, this disease being much more frequent in cold countries, and proportionally rare in warm ones; we confess, we do not understand the following note, nor comprehend the practical difference between arresting and retarding. "*Query*, Though a warm climate may not be sufficient to *arrest* the progress of the disease, under these circumstances, yet will it not *retard* it?"

The most important part of a "Practical Essay" is undoubtedly that, which explains the treatment of the disease, and to this we shall now turn our attention.

We were particularly struck with the following paragragh; as we think the comparative results of the author's experience, would be better adapted to a practical essay, than speculative reasoning upon facts already known.

"The author has purposely avoided introducing any detail of the cases which have fallen under his own particular observation, as he did not conceive that they were calculated to prove any thing more than what is met with in the ordinary course of practice; and in point of numbers could not be put in competition with the extensive scale of facts already brought forward."

The treatment of cancer must be either by internal medicines or external applications; in regard to the former, all discussion is vain, if the following observation is true; and we must, as our author has done, confine ourselves to the external treatment of the disease.

"It would be a very tedious, and at the same time an unprofitable task, to attempt to offer a detailed account of the various articles of the Materia Medica, that have been given internally with a view to the cure of cancer. Let it, therefore, suffice to observe, that there is not a single medicine of any general efficacy, but what has at some time or other been exhibited, under every variety both of form and circumstances. The collective experience of past ages, however, serves only to shew, that, so far as respects a cure, all such means are equally devoid of efficacy."

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It is very extraordinary, however, that a disease depending so generally, according to the author, upon constitutional predisposition, should be altogether uninfluenced by internal remedies. A permanent cure then can only be effected by local applications, which will completely remove the tumour, or by excision; and the Author does not hesitate to give a decided preference to the latter method; but we will state his opinion in his own words.

"I shall now then proceed briefly to notice those means of cure which have been made use of in cancerous affections, externally.

"The impractibility of reducing the absolute size of a truly scirrhous tumour, is a circumstance which has already been noticed in a former part of the Essay. All the various applications, therefore, which have been made use of to parts affected with cancer, have been intended to fulfill nearly the same indications of cure; viz. to destroy the living powers of the morbid growth, and to effect its consequent separation from the sound and living parts which lie immediately adjacent.

"The question accordingly comes to this issue, whether any of the articles which have been employed for the above purpose, possess a power capable of accomplishing such intentions?

"It would not be right to deny that, under certain circumstances, they may possess such a power; but, if we reflect seriously on the great inconvenience, danger, and uncertainty, which necessarily attend their operation, they will, it is conceived, deservedly appear to be held cheap in the general estimation of the profession.

"To place this subject in a more familiar point of view, let us, by way of illustration, suppose an application of this kind to be made to a scirrhous breast. Can there, I would ask, be any one credulous enough to suppose that the surgeon is endued with a discretionary power, which can be exercised over the action of such a substance? I have not called it by the name of caustic, lest a verbal objection should be raised against the use of the term. Is it for a moment to be supposed, that an application of this sort can be so determined in its operation, as completely to destroy the morbid parts, without fear of injury to others, where its effects might not only prove highly prejudicial, but even dangerous to life? I should, without the smallest hesitation, answer both these questions decidedly in the negative. Who is there, I would further ask, that could pretend to say, with any certainty, when the whole of a scirrhous tumour had been removed by these means?

"These, however, are not the only objections to the use of such local applications. Their operation is attended, for the most part, with excessive pain, and a high degree of inflammation; besides which, in order to ensure the very precarious prospect of success, which their use affords, it often becomes necessary to repeat them several times. I shall not at present say any thing about the difficulty of healing an extensive sore, formed in this way; because the great objection to all similar means of cure is derived from

from the long continued inflammation with which they are necessarily attended. This inflammation tends very considerably to hasten the further extension of the disease, through the medium of the lymphatic vessels; and so put it, in a little time, altogether beyond the reach of art.

"The only other method by which it has been attempted to effect a permanent cure, consists in the excision of the diseased parts: and, though we have but too often to lament its failure when performed late, yet, even under the most unfavourable circumstances, it would not, I conceive, be difficult to shew its advantages over every other proposed means of relief."

The excision being determined upon, a question arises, at what period of the disease should the operation be performed; the author contends for an early removal, and endeavours to refute Mr. Pearson's objections to its being indiscriminately had recourse to in the early stages of the disease. Mr. Pearson approves of early extirpation when the whole of the diseased parts can be removed, but he thinks the chance of success greater when the disease is at a stand and its extent can be ascertained, than when it is in progress, and therefore proposes that early excision should be adopted with some limitations. Here we think the author's work defective, and we wish he had informed us, from his own experience, of the comparative results of the operation performed in various periods and stages of the disease.

The author next describes the manner of performing the operation on the various parts affected with cancer; for this, we must refer our readers to the work itself; having already sufficiently extended our remarks, we shall only mention, that in *every case* of scirrhous breasts, he recommends the removal of the *whole* of the breast, whatever be the extent of the disease. This is, certainly, an effectual method of preventing that individual organ from being again affected; but as it does not remove the constitutional predisposition, hereditary or acquired, and without which predisposition, the author says, *simple inflammation only*, not cancer, could have been at first produced, the patient is not at all secured from a recurrence of the disease in some other part.

A Conspectus of the Pharmacopœias of the London, Edinburgh, and Dublin Colleges of Physicians; being a Practical Compendium of Materia Medica and Pharmacy. By A. TODD THOMSON, Fellow of the Medical Society of London, and of the Medical, the Royal Physical, and the Speculative Societies of Edinburgh. 12mo. pp. 283.

THIS little volume has made its appearance at a time when it is likely to be acceptable to the members of the medical profession, as it contains all the new articles of the materia medica, and the officinal preparations inserted by the London College in their last Pharmacopœia, and may serve as an abridgment of the larger work

work of the same kind, published by Dr. Duncan, jun. Under each article of the vegetable kingdom, the place it holds in the Systems of Linnæus and Jussieu is stated, its original place of growth pointed out, and the terms of its existence marked in the characters used by botanical writers. The chemical components of the different substances are taken from Murray's and Thompson's Systems of Chemistry; and the properties of most of the vegetable productions from the Materia Medica a Regno Vegetabili of Bergius.

With regard to the medical properties and doses, although we should advise those never to presume to prescribe remedies who have not laid a deeper foundation than can be acquired from a Conspectus or Compendium, yet, as the precise dose of a medicine, not constantly used by any one, is frequently forgotten, this little Manual affords a ready opportunity of recalling it to memory. Under each article, also, is added, what we think valuable information, the various substances with which that article ought not to be joined in composition; for we must all have seen absurd blunders sometimes committed in prescriptions even by physicians of some eminence, for want of knowing, or of recollecting, the chemical affinities of the several substances prescribed for medicines.

An Account of Diseases in an Eastern District of London, from April 20 to May 20, 1810.

ACUTE DISEASES.

Pneumonia - - - - - 4
Peripneumonia Notha 5
Typhus Mitior - - - - 4
Rheumatismus Acutus - 3

CHRONIC DISEASES.

Tussis - - - - - - - 11
Tussis cum Dyspnœa - 7
Hæmoptysis - - - - - 4
Phthisis Pulmonalis - - 2
Hydrothorax - - - - - 4
Pleurodyne - - - - - 7
Hepatitis Chronica - - 3
Hysterodynia - - - - - 4
Fluor Albus - - - - - 7
Dysuria - - - - - - - 5
Obstipatio - - - - - - 2
Hemiplegia - - - - - 2
Cephalalgia - - - - - 6
Hernia - - - - - - - 2
Rheumatismus Chronicus 10

INFANTILE DISEASES.

Convulsio - - - - - - 3
Diarrhœa - - - - - - 5
Aphthæ - - - - - - 4
Scrophula - - - - - - 6

PUERPERAL DISEASES.

Mastodynia - - - - - 4
Stillicidium Urinæ - - 1
Menorrhagia Lochialis - 4
Dolores Post Partum - 5

In the preceding list, several cases are referred to, of a disease which the Nosologists have denominated Hysteralgia. This is principally distinguished by pains in the loins, shooting forwards towards the region of the pubis.

Pains of this kind occur at different times, and under different circumstances. In some subjects they recur in a greater or less degree at every period of menstruation. But what is now particularly referred to, is different from these, as the disease generally makes its approach at a period of life subsequent to that, during which menstruation is continued. This complaint most commonly commences with a sense of weight, and an obtuse pain about the region of the uterus, and by some patients is compared to slight labour pains, which, returning at intervals, and gradually increasing, become a source of great uneasiness.

These symptoms must occasion anxiety in the mind of the medical practitioner, when he considers them indicating disposition in the organ to take on some morbid action, which, too frequently, at a more advanced period, terminates in a schirrous or cancerous state.

The disease is found most commonly amongst those females who have indulged themselves pretty freely in the luxuries of the table. It is attendant particularly upon those who have lived a single life, or who, having been married, have never borne any children; it has generally discovered itself about the time of menstruation ceasing; and it is not improbable, that the means which have been employed to prolong the period of its duration, have contributed, in some degree, to produce the symptoms referred to.

This disease may more easily be prevented, or palliated, than cured. A proper attention to diet and regimen at its first appearance may, for a considerable time, suspend, if not entirely prevent, the occurrence of those more painful and formidable symptoms, which in the progress of the disease, too frequently afflict the patient to such a degree as to render life a burden.

In some cases, where great fullness prevails, the loss of a few ounces of blood may be of essential service; and to keep the bowels regularly open, by the use of some gentle laxative, is indispensably necessary. Every article both of diet and of medicine which is of a heating or stimulating quality must be avoided. Violent exercise may prove injurious, whilst that which is gentle, and not too long continued, will be highly salutary.

Report of the Diseases of Edinburgh for May, 1810.
By John Roberton, M. D.

This is in general, in this part of the world, a cold and disagreeable month. On the present occasion it has not deviated from what it usually is. It commenced with very cold easterly winds and some showers of rain, and the city was enveloped in fogs of considerable density, rendering the weather extremely uncomfortable; this was succeeded by partial showers of hail and snow, which, during most part of two days, fell in great abundance. The neighbouring hills were entirely covered by the snow, and, in every respect, the weather had more the appearance of January than May. This was succeeded by days of heavy rain, and this again by firm frost, which produced ice of considerable thickness. We had then a fall of hail and snow, and the wind became very boisterous. Indeed, with the exception of one or two days about the end of the month, and now and then a part of one day or so throughout the whole of it, the weather was very bad.

The barometer was in general low throughout the whole month.

The thermometer varied considerably, but was also in general rather low, sometimes indeed below the freezing point; and a part of one or two days it was as high as 60°.

The diseases have been for the most part either of a slightly inflammatory sort, or consequences of such a state of the system, but few of them, seem very severe; and, independently of the unfavourable state of the weather, the general health of the people seems to be improving.

Chin-cough seems still to exist amoug us, and in various places it has even increased both in extent and severity. The inflammatory state of the system mentioned last month, seems not so evidently marked as formerly, but consequences of such a state seem pretty frequently to be met with in practice; such as abscesses, ulcers, and effusions of serum in different parts of the body. Stomach complaints, and diarrhœa, seem to have abated in their violence as well as in their frequency of occurrence in practice. The other complaints, except catarrh and cynanche tonsillaris, seem also to have abated. These, however, probably from the damp and cold weather, are still to be met with of very considerable severity.

The prevailing complaints then of the present month seem to be chin-cough, catarrh, cynanche tonsillaris, abscesses, ulcers, and dropsical effusions.

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Of the first three of these complaints I have previously said enough, both with regard to their nature and treatment.

With regard to the abscesses and ulcers, they have appeared rather more plentiful than I recollect to have seen them in practice. Although there can be little doubt that the existence of these affections is owing, in general, to the previous inflammatory state of the system, yet, from the comparative mildness of that inflammatory state during the winter, probably there may be some other cause of the nature and particular influence of which we are not so well acquainted. For if it were alone owing to such an inflammatory diathesis, the present state of such ulcers, &c. would be milder than usual, rather than, as is evident, their appearing in an aggravated degree. Other seasons too, when the inflammatory state of the system prevailed in a very great degree, were not so certainly followed by such ulcers, &c. as on the present occasion, when, from that circumstance, we had reason to expect the appearance of such affections. This is one among the many reasons which obtrude themselves upon us, and which show the necessity of particular rather than general reasoning respecting these points. Though certainly, perhaps in all complaints, as well as in the plans by which they ought to be removed, there are certain general and perhaps invariable circumstances attending them; yet attention to these alone, and a neglect of other occasional occurrences, have often been productive of the most fatal consequences. It is owing to this, that attention to the existing circumstances will often enable us to be successful practitioners, when the contrary will often involve us in embarrassments and perplexities from which we can only extricate ourselves with the greatest difficulty.

When the ulcers then appear in an apparently sound and vigorous person, they are usually easily remedied by simple means; but in debilitated and scrofulous habits the difficulty in their removal seems to have been proportioned to the existing derangement. In the first, cleanliness, simple dressings, with occasionally the internal use of bark and wine, have entirely removed them in a short time; but in the latter, more active measures were absolutely necessary. I have elsewhere suggested a plan for the removal of such affections; and in the present instance I find it invariably to answer my most sanguine expectations. What I allude to is, the internal use of cantharides, of the successful application of which I formerly inserted some remarks in this Journal. To them I

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now refer my readers; but in a distinct publication, the printing of which is about finished, I have entered still more fully into a consideration of this important subject.

The other most prevalent complaint is dropsy, of which various cases have occurred in practice. This disease indeed had, seemingly in every form, been gradually approaching from the very commencement of the month; and although there are various cases both of ascites and hydrothorax, yet the most generally prevailing form of the complaint is that of anasarca. The majority of the cases, in whatever form they appeared, were removable by small and repeated doses of supertartrite of potass, pills composed of calomel and squills, and tincture of cantharides. Some of them, however, in the form of hydrothorax, or in that of ascites, required that the fluid should be removed by surgical means; yet, even then, the medicines now mentioned were obliged to be continued after the operation for a considerable length of time.

In one case of ascites, after every internal medicine was employed without producing any remarkably beneficial effects, the operation was attempted; but to the mortification of the surgeon, who never before had performed an operation of the kind, no fluid followed on withdrawing the trocar. It was again introduced at a different part, but was still unsuccessful. The patient continued to labour under his accumulating miseries for about a week more, when he died. On dissection, the causes of the failure were evident, for the fluid had collected in cysts, to which the trocar could not reach. Besides this, the whole abdominal viscera seemed one mass of disease.

Princes Street.

INTELLIGENCE.

The Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal have the pleasure to inform their Readers, that the "Bill for the improvement of the Medical and Surgical and Veterinary Sciences, and for regulating the practice thereof," will be introduced into Parliament at the commencement of next Session, with every prospect of success. The Editors have further to observe, that although the several important objects of the Plan will be accomplished, they have good reason to believe, that no tax of any kind is intended to be imposed upon the present race of medical men. It was originally proposed to build the School of Physic, and otherwise improve Medical Science, by calling upon the Members of the Profession, who are not of the Corporate Bodies, for an equivalent,

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in lieu of the admission fine; and this would, it must be admitted have been an equitable assessment. However, through the indefatigable exertions of the chief promoter of the scheme, and the liberality of government, it is now confidently expected, that all the objects of the Bill will be obtained on principles the most liberal towards the Profession at large. This subject is to be resumed in a future Number, when the further proceedings shall be communicated more in detail.

There have been vaccinated at the eight different stations of the National Vaccine Establishment in the Metropolis, 1493 persons; and the Directors have very lately found it expedient to establish a ninth station in the populous parish of Spital-Fields. The demand for the charges of vaccine fluid has been progressively increasing for several months, and since the last statement, the number of them delivered amounts to 16,749; which affords a strong presumption, that the practice of Vaccination is becoming more and more extended; an inference abundantly confirmed by the accounts which have been transmitted to the Board from all parts of the empire.

There is now a boy, eight years old, in Old Gravel Lane, who is recovering from small-pox, which he has had pretty severely *a second time.* The first time was about three years ago, when he caught them, together with his sister, from a child who was inoculated in the house where they dwelt. The boy and girl both sickened together, both had a plentiful eruption, were both blind during the disease, and were marked by the pustules. From what source the boy has now taken them cannot be ascertained, but the pustules are very numerous, and have gone through complete maturation, as on the former occasion. The girl remains uninfected.

Mr. de Luc has invented a machine which he denominates the Electric Column, and which, by some of our natural philosophers, is considered the most important discovery in the science of electricity, since that of the Voltaic pile. He is preparing an account of it for publication.

An improved method of preparing phosphorus bottles. The phosphorus being carefully dried by filtering paper, cut a thin slice, divide it into as many pieces as can expeditiously be done, and introduce each piece into a small bottle, with as much lime as will surround it. Lime slaked in the air, and submitted to a strong red heat, in a black lead crucible, for twenty minutes, is in a good state for the purpose. The bottle, when full, may be exposed, corked, to the radiant heat of a fire, till some of the pieces of phosphorus have assumed an orange tint. It will then be ready for immediate use. But the heating is not necessary, if the bottle is not wanted for immediate use, and it will continue longer in a serviceable state. In using the bottle, the mouth should be closed as the match is withdrawn. Bottles thus prepared continue serviceable four or five months, though very frequently used.

Mr.

Mr. Knight, in his report of the transactions of the Horticultural Society, mentions an improved method of cultivating the alpine strawberry. The process consists of sowing the seed on a moderate hot-bed, in the beginning of April, and removing the plants as soon as they have acquired sufficient strength, to beds in the open ground. They will begin to blossom after Midsummer, and afford an abundant late autumnal crop. Mr. K. thinks, that this strawberry ought always to be treated as an annual plant.

The following curious circumstance respecting the toad, is communicated by a correspondent to Nicholson's Journal:—"A person," says he, "in the neighbourhood of Maidstone, who manufactures brown paper, informed me, while I was observing his people at work, that he had frequently placed a toad amidst a pile of sheets to be pressed, and always found it alive and well on taking out, though it must have sustained with the paper a pressure equivalent to several tons; but a frog could never survive the same degree of pressure. I sought a long time for a toad to see the experiment myself, but was unable to find one till after the men had left work."

The cranium of a horrid animal, the race of which seems to be extinct, has been recently dug up near Minava. From the description given of this part of the skeleton, the animal must have been at least ten or twelve feet long. The horns which are attached to the head, and have partly passed into a fossil state, far exceed in size those of the oxen of the present day. They are a foot and a half in circumference at the root, and two feet and a half long. It was hoped that the entire skeleton would be recovered; but on further search, two teeth only were found. Foreign naturalists are of opinion, that this head must have belonged to the race of Urus or Aurochs, mentioned by Cæsar in his Commentaries, and which some even suppose still to exist in the mountains of Siberia, and in the forests of Poland.

In addition to the circumstances already detailed respecting the late earthquakes at the Cape of Good Hope, the following particulars are communicated in a letter, dated Cape Town, January 1810. My last letter was principally about earthquakes, which have been repeated almost every day since the 4th ult. During the last week we have had five or six shocks, but none except the three on December 4, and two since, have been violent. The Dutch inhabitants begin to console themselves with the idea that the noises we hear are thunder, although not a cloud is to be seen in any part of the sky. These earthquakes have greatly reduced the value of houses, most of which in the colony are more or less damaged. In every part of the settlement the shocks have been experienced, in some slightly, in others in a more violent degree. Salt water has been thrown up in places at the distance of three or four miles from the sea, without leaving any appearance of springs or openings in the soil. In other parts, where the soil is black, as low down as our wells have been dug, several spots of white sand,

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about six feet in diameter, and generally of a circular form, have been thrown up, evidently in union with water, which immediately subsided. Springs of water have also burst out in many parts of the colony where there never were any before. A waggon, which came into Cape Town two days ago, sunk to the top of the wheels in a quick-sand, which is thrown up in the middle of a road that was before as hard as a rock. If these are the only effects that will be produced by such subterraneous convulsions, we have great reason to be satisfied with the result, since our climate appears to have been greatly ameliorated by them. Ever since the first shocks, we have experienced cool pleasant weather, and have been free from those violent winds, which at this season of the year, usually prevailed three days out of seven. During the last month, which is our Midsummer, the thermometer has seldom been higher than 72°, and the barometer has varied between 29·30 and 30·15. Our winter passed with only one storm of thunder and lightening, and that by no means violent. The first winter of my arrival (1808), I believe we had thunder two or three times a week, for five weeks successively. If, as some philosophers assert, electricity be the cause of earthquakes, may it not also account for the absence of thunder and lightening, which we have experienced during the last winter?

Dr. CLOUGH, Physician Man-midwife to the St. Mary-le-bone General Dispensary, &c. will, on Monday the 6th of August, at ten in the morning, commence his next Course of Lectures on the Science and Practice of Midwifery, including the Diseases of Women and Infants.

Dr. SQUIRE will begin a Course of Lectures on Midwifery and the Diseases of Women and Children, on Tuesday, July 3, 1810. For particulars apply to Dr. Squire, 30, Ely Place, Holborn.

To CORRESPONDENTS.

In answer to L. E. of Godalming, on the subject of extending the practice of vaccination among the poor and indigent, by medical practitioners confining themselves to *moderate charges,* we can inform him, that there is scarcely a large town in the British dominions, in which there is not at least one establishment for the gratuitous inoculation of the Cow-Pox, where, not only the poor and indigent, but sometimes, persons in tolerably good circumstances, avail themselves of the opportunity of securing their children from the ravages of that dreadful disease the small-pox; and we have not heard of any exaction being practised by medical men, in places where no such establishments exist.

Dr. James Bradley's communication has been received. We regret its being too long for insertion in its present state; if the Doctor will permit us to make a selection from it, we shall be happy to give some of his valuable cases and remarks to our Readers in the next Number. We shall presume upon his consent, if he does not forbid us by the 10th of the Month.